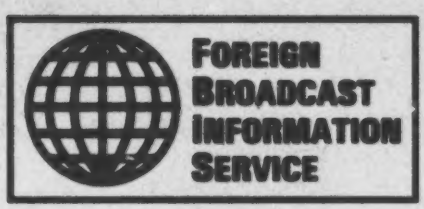

Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-075
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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-075 *19 April 1995*

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Foreign Ministry: Moscow Stands for 'Prolongation' of NPT *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Security Council's Manilov on NPT Extension *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 23 Apr]* 1
UN-Arranged Inter-Tajik Talks Open in Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Further on Tajik Government, Opposition Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 3

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Russian General Asked To Head CIS Troops in Tajikistan *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 19 Apr 4

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Officials Suspicious of Prospects for U.S.-Russia Relations *[INTERFAX]* 6
Further on Spasskiy Speech at Duma Hearings *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Official Predicts Worsening Russia-U.S. Relations *[SEGODNYA 19 Apr]* 6
Karasin Backs Grachev CFE Obligations Statements *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Expert Says Conventional Arms Treaty Needs Updating *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Grachev Remark on CFE Reflects 'New Realities' *[INTERFAX]* 7
NATO Expansion May Lead to 'Cold Peace' *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Kozyrev: Russia Favors Partnership With NATO *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Chernomyrdin Says NATO Expansion Will Bring 'Nothing Good' *[INTERFAX]* 8
Chernomyrdin: Sweden's View of NATO Coincides With Russia's *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Yeltsin Praises Relations With Sweden After Setbacks *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Kozyrev: Force Valid To Defend Russian Nationals Abroad *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Further on Kozyrev Comments on Protecting Russians *[INTERFAX]* 10
Lebed, Lukin, Zatulin React to Kozyrev Statement *[Moscow Radio]* 11
Kozyrev Statement on 'Use of Force' Personal View *[INTERFAX]* 11
Chernomyrdin on Lessons of World War II *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
Grachev, Chernomyrdin Appraise WWII *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 19 Apr]* 12
Mikhaylov: U.S. Plays 'Double Game' in Nuclear Sale to Iran *[Madrid ABC 17 Apr]* 13
Rybkin: Nuclear Reactor for Iran Poses No Threat *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Commentary on U.S. Reaction to Russia-Iran Nuclear Deal *[Moscow ORT]* 15
Official Links Sale of Uranium to Iranian Nuclear Deal *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Karasin Urges 'Soonest' Fulfillment of Iraq Resolution *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Karasin on Bosnian Attacks on Peacekeepers *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Karasin Suggests Lifting FRY Sanctions *[INTERFAX]* 16
Defense Ministry Refutes Afghan Envoy's Claims on Bombings *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Yeltsin Expresses 'Regret' Over Relations With Ukraine *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Ukraine's Marchuk on Differences Over Sevastopol *[Moscow Radio]* 17
Yeltsin Notes 'Unyielding' Ukrainian Stand on BSF *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Marchuk Comments on Talks With Yeltsin *[INTERFAX]* 18
Marchuk: Yeltsin Visit Before 9 May Not Ruled Out *[INTERFAX]* 18
Date of Yeltsin Visit to Ukraine Undecided *[INTERFAX]* 18
Duma Official Says Black Sea Fleet Talks at 'Dead End' *[Moscow Radio]* 19
Kozyrev on Need for Ukraine to Consider Crimea's Rights *[INTERFAX]* 19

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Inspects Red Square Preparations for 9 May *[Moscow NTV]* 20
Victory Festivities Yeltsin's 'Chief Concern' *[IZVESTIYA 19 Apr]* 20

Claimed Rigging of 1993 Elections Rejected *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 18 Apr]* 20
FSK Reports on 1994 Operations *[SEGODNYA 5 Apr]* 21
Moscow Court Bans Aum Activities in Russia, Blames Media *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Aum Shinrikyo Moscow Branch Denies Involvement in Gas Attack *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Attacks on New AIDS Screening Law Seen As Hypocritical *[IZVESTIYA 14 Apr]* 24
Mayor's Adviser on AIDS Assesses Threat *[NEVSKOYE VREMYA 11 Apr]* 25
Number of HIV, AIDS Cases Increasing *[Moscow 2x2 TV]* 25

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin Appoints Shakhray To Oversee Passage of Two Laws *[SEGODNYA 18 Apr]* 25
Yavlinskiy Denies Alliance With Communist Leader Zuganov *[INTERFAX]* 25
Duma Panel Head on Implementing Local Autonomy *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 Apr]* 26
Conciliation Commission To Review Election Draft Laws *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 19 Apr]* .. 28
Industrial Party Official Outlines Platform *[Moscow Radio]* 28

Regional Affairs

New Oil Spill Concealed on Komi-Nenets Border *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Shakhray Favors Migration of Russians to Siberia *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Reportage, Commentary on Situation in Chechnya 29
58th Army To Be Based Near Groznyy Airport *[Moscow NTV]* 29
Paper Probes Alleged Death of Dudayev *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 18 Apr]* 29
Chechens Surrender Arms on Dagestan Border *[Radio Rossii]* 30
Missing Servicemen Found *[INTERFAX]* 30
Finance Ministry Grants R590 Billion for Repairs *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Dudayev Forces Resuming 'Active Combat Operations' *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Commander on Plans To Seal Off Mountains *[Moscow RTV]* 30
Chechen Refugees to Dagestan Increasing *[Radio Rossii]* 31
Militants Return To Stage Acts of Subversion *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
More on Refugees Return to Groznyy *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Duma Official—Samashki Casualties 'Overstated' *[INTERFAX]* 31
Further on Bombing Raid on Ingush Village *[Moscow Radio]* 32
Deputy Commander Denies Bombing Ingush Village *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Ingush President Protests Village Bombing *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Source: 100 Russian Soldiers Killed in Bamut *[Moscow Radio]* 32
Federal Troops Continue Shelling Bamut *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Interior Troops Seize Northern Part of Bamut *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Bamut Under Siege *[Moscow NTV]* 33
Kulikov Announces Capture of Bamut *[ITAR-TASS]* 34

Economic Issues

All Restrictions Lifted on Japan's Credit to Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Russian-Chinese Trade Set To Grow This Year *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
IMF Grants Loan, But Lacks 'Absolute Faith' *[IZVESTIYA 14 Apr]* 34
Panskov: Ukraine Begins Servicing Debt to Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Shakhray Addresses Economic Stabilization Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Media Briefed on 1995 Privatization Program *[IZVESTIYA 15 Apr]* 36
Basic 1996 Federal Budget Parameters Analyzed *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 19 Apr]* 36
Central Bank Law Delayed To Defer Paramonova Row *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 18 Apr]* 37
Bank Investment Offers Spark 'Optimism' *[TRUD 18 Apr]* 38
'Massive Gulf' Between Government and Trade Unions
[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 13 Apr] 39
New Labor Confederation of Russia Founded 12 Apr *[SEGODNYA 13 Apr]* 39
Chernomyrdin: Agro-Industrial Subsidy To Be Reduced *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 7 Apr]* 40
Peasant's Assembly Threatens Strike *[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 13 Apr]* 40

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Foreign Minister on Relations With Moscow, NATO Expansion *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Decisive Action Urged in Negotiations With Russia
[VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 12 Apr] 42
Dudayev's Family Reportedly Given Asylum *[UNIAN]* 42
Latvian Delegation Ends Visit, Kuchma To Visit in May *[UNIAR]* 43
Ukraine Ready To Send Observers to Abkhazia *[INTERFAX]* 43

National Affairs

Bashkortostan Delegation Holds Talks on Cooperation *[URYADOVYY KURYER 13 Apr]* 43
Deputies, Officials on Recent Scandal in Parliament *[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 13 Apr]* 43
Parliament Adopts 'Intermediate' Law on Presidential Powers *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Supreme Council Approves President's Right of Veto *[UNIAR]* 45
Rukh Urges Liquidation of Crimean Territorial Autonomy *[UNIAR]* 45
42 Crimean Deputies Form Parliament Loyal to Ukraine *[UNIAN]* 46
Crimean Deputies Appeal Read in Parliament *[Kiev International]* 46
Crimean Tartar Leader Warns of Civil War *[UNIAN]* 46

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Security Officials To Receive Training in U.S. *[INTERFAX]* 47
KGB Denies Collecting Compromising Data *[INTERFAX]* 47
Lukashenka on Departing Parliament, Opposition *[Minsk TV]* 47
Free Trade Union: Presidential Referendum 'Blasphemous' *[Minsk International]* 48

Moldova

Snegur Discusses Dniester With EU Parliament Delegation *[INFOTAG]* 48
Lucinschi Briefs EU Official on Dniester Developments *[INFOTAG]* 48
Snegur Leaves For Visit to Hungary *[INFOTAG]* 49
Snegur: Local Elections 'Particularly Significant' *[INFOTAG]* 49
Socialist Party Leader Satisfied With Election Results *[INFOTAG]* 50
Communists Win Local Elections in Gagauzia *[INFOTAG]* 50
Communists Ready To Cooperate With Socialists Locally *[INFOTAG]* 50
Socialist Party Chief Opposes Romanian as Official Language *[INTERFAX]* 50

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev on Ethnic Issues, Referendum *[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA 14 Apr]* 52
Vice President Urges Russia To Ratify Citizenship Measures *[Almaty Radio]* 55
Nazarbayev Meets With Russian Chief Editors *[TRUD 18 Apr]* 55
President Defines Commodity Exchanges *[KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA 11 Apr]* 55
Possible Aims, Effects of Upcoming Referendum Viewed *[KARAVAN 14 Apr]* 60
Electoral Commission Chair on Referendum *[PANORAMA 15 Apr]* 61
Case of 'Dissent' Over Newspaper Examined *[KARAVAN 14 Apr]* 62

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Calls On Deputies To Resolve Differences *[INTERFAX]* 64
Military Delegation Visits Troops on Tajik-Afghan Border *[Bishkek Radio]* 64
Kyrgyz Involvement in Tajik Conflict Viewed *[SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA 15 Apr]* 64

Tajikistan

UN Military Observers To Visit Opposition in Afghanistan *[Voice of Free Tajikistan]* 65
President Comments on Visit to Kuwait *[ITAR-TASS]* 65
Russian Border Guards Rebuff Tajik Militants *[INTERFAX]* 66

Turkmenistan

President Urges Better Ties With United States *[TURKMEN PRESS]* 66
President Survives 'Acute' Respiratory Disorder *[TURKMEN PRESS]* 66

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Karabakh Minister on Duma Discussion, Troop Withdrawal *[Yerevan Radio]* 67
Karabakh Politicians Discuss Azerbaijani-Western Oil Deal *[NOYAN TAPAN]* 67
Karabakh Deputy Candidates Nominated *[RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA 14 Apr]* 67
Tsekhapashtutyun Party Leader on Elections *[RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA 14 Apr]* 68

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Continuing Contacts in Brussels *[Baku TV]* 69
U.S. Oil Company Chosen To Improve Washington Ties *[ITAR-TASS]* 70
Baku To Sign Trade Pact With Russia, Pay 1993 Debt *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 18 Apr]* 70
CIS Border Protection Agreement Opposed
[EKHO MOSKVY INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSVO] 71

Georgia

Defense Minister Meets Counterpart in Moscow *[IBERIA]* 71
Abkhaz Supreme Council Threatens Rejecting Mandate Renewal
[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY] 71
Abkhaz Peoples Congress Urges Moscow Reunification *[INTERFAX]* 71

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Latvian Fishing Boat Intercepted in Disputed Zone *[BNS]* 73
New Estonian Cabinet Sworn In *[INTERFAX]* 73
Prime Minister Comments on Budget Prospects *[Tallinn Radio]* 74
Vahi Appoints New State Secretary, Deputy Prime Minister *[Tallinn Radio]* 74

Latvia

Reaction to Kozyrev Statement on Nationalities *[Riga Radio]* 74
Norway To Finance Teaching of Latvian to Russians *[Riga Radio]* 75
More Retired Russian Military Personnel Departing *[Riga Radio]* 76

Lithuania

Foreign Ministry Demands Explanation of Kozyrev Statement *[Vilnius Radio]* 76
Slezevicius on Wages, Inflation, European Integration *[Vilnius Radio]* 76
Future of Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion Discussed *[Vilnius Radio]* 76

Foreign Ministry: Moscow Stands for 'Prolongation' of NPT

LD1804144995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1422 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—Russia stands for open-ended and unconditional prolongation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] and opposes its revision or amending, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's information and press department Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing here today in connection with the conference of treaty participants that has opened in New York City.

The initial validity of this treaty is 25 years. This term expires in 1995. Membership in the treaty is nearing universal. This is the broadest agreement on limitation and reduction of armaments.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty has been tested by time and proved to be viable. It has become the essential basis of the international security and stability system and an efficient instrument of preventing nuclear proliferation, stressed Karasin. In his words, "the treaty continues to ensure radical measures for termination of nuclear arms race and successful international cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy."

The Russian side counts on the New York conference to agree on open-ended prolongation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Security Council's Manilov on NPT Extension

MK1904102095 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 26 16-23 Apr 95 (Signed to press 18 Apr) p 15

[Interview with Valeriy Manilov, deputy secretary of the Russian Security Council, by Vladimir Orlov under the "Viewpoint" rubric: "How To Leave a Quixotic Era Behind"—first two paragraphs are introduction; place, date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The conference on renewing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] began its deliberations at UN headquarters in New York 17 April. The unique treaty, with a 25- year history and 174 signatories, should be renewed either indefinitely or for a limited period. Over the past several years the period of the treaty's extension has become a matter of fierce diplomatic struggle.

Unlike the five nuclear states, many nonaligned countries are not particularly enthusiastic about the text of the treaty and attach a number of crucial conditions to its extension. Will the Russian stance during the conference be sufficiently flexible? Valeriy Manilov, deputy secretary of the Russian Security Council, talks about that in an exclusive interview for Vladimir Orlov.

[Orlov] As far as I know, the Security Council discussed options of the Russian delegation's line of conduct during the conference. A decision was made based on the results of the discussion...

[Manilov] This question was not actually discussed at a Security Council meeting. The Security Council staff prepared it in so clear-cut a fashion that there was no need to hold a discussion. A whole range of possible scenarios of how events may evolve was worked out and assessed. First, we discussed a situation where no agreement on indefinite extension will be reached. Second, we analyzed stances by certain states that strike a note of discord in the joint choir and gave thought to how they can be persuaded to change their viewpoints. All Security Council members hold a common, fully conscious view that the treaty, without doubt, needs to be extended.

[Orlov] Then the most important question arises. For how long? I have had a chance to hear that for the purpose of compromise an option is under discussion whereby the treaty would be renewed for 25 years and could subsequently be prolonged further.

[Manilov] Ideally, this treaty should have an indefinite run and all states of the world should become "signatories and observants" to it. We ought to strive to achieve this ideal, but in so doing we should do our utmost so that as many states as possible will join the treaty and none will withdraw from it during the conference. Besides, we need to do all we can so as to make the treaty "work."

[Orlov] Is the Security Council's NPT decision a confidential one?

[Manilov] Yes, as the overwhelming majority of other Security Council decisions. To say nothing of questions concerning such sensitive areas as arms control. For in the end the issue is security. I can say that the Russian delegation should not proceed from the premise "indefinite or none at all." A responsible approach means to prevent proliferation in any case. For this reason our delegation will have a whole range of options at its disposal.

[Orlov] If we take stances by countries that strike a discordant note and which are opposed to indefinite extension (such as Iran, Nigeria, Egypt, Mexico), they have one unquestionable trump card: The nuclear states have not fully complied with Article IV of the treaty on giving technological assistance to countries that have voluntarily forsworn possession of nuclear arms. Notable in that regard is the situation concerning Iran, which is a signatory to the treaty, which has put all its facilities under IAEA guarantees, but which is still being subjected to pressure on the part of the United States. Did the Security Council analyze this matter?

[Manilov] Naturally it did. We see this as one of the most crucial matters. As for the situation with Iran, it is clearly evident there that we are dealing with an intrusion of other interests—ones that, in my judgment, have a very

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remote bearing on this treaty and are most directly related to economics and the division of spheres of influence—into the areas of nuclear security and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. We considered very carefully all arguments cited by opponents of our cooperation with Iran regarding the construction of a nuclear power plant, we critically weighed up the situation as to whether there may be an actual threat of using these power plants to produce weapons-grade plutonium in quantities that will make it possible to create nuclear arms. Here are our conclusions. First, multilateral examination by specialists—involving independent experts, calculations, and formulas that are fairly far from us, politicians—has shown that even if a certain amount of plutonium is produced in the end as "output," this plutonium would not be enough to create nuclear arms even with the most advanced equipment and technology. Second, since Iran pledges to submit fully to international control—the IAEA's control—everything that is being done or will be done in its nuclear industry, even the possibility that unforeseen phenomena may emerge as by-products, will be completely ruled out. Practice has shown that this is a fairly effective control, all the more so because it is underpinned by agreement between the nuclear powers.

Russia fully realizes its responsibility for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in all regions of the world. We understand that in an unstable world the possibility that a state or a group of states with unstable regimes, to say nothing of extremist, nationalist, or fundamentalist regimes with a fanatical tinge, may come to possess nuclear arms poses a threat to global security, not only regional security. We are well aware of the fact that a number of states have already come close to possession or already possesses technologies and materials required to manufacture nuclear arms. With regard to our nuclear cooperation with Iran, we proceed precisely from these fundamental premises. And we stick with them very firmly. Given the above, Russia's cooperation with Iran will make it possible to stabilize the situation for the sake of the whole world, not only one region, because there is nothing more effective than peaceful economic cooperation, partnership, when ties are enhanced and when joint interests emerge in the area of creation, not destruction.

[Orlov] The situation is more difficult regarding the drafting of a contract on the construction of a Russian nuclear power plant in India. India is not a signatory to the NPT, nor is it going to join it.

[Manilov] I think that a few questions would be pertinent here. Yet, I would note that more often than not questions arise in an area that, if I may say so, has been insufficiently "fertilized with information." In this particular case I would prefer not to disclose all nuances. This is too delicate a matter. I would only point out that one real lever of civilized pressure on India to change its stance on the treaty and accession to it is our possible cooperation in this area, particularly the signing of relevant contracts. Precisely this should bring India within the bounds of agreement with the postulates provided for in the treaty or at least may help convince it to recognize the fundamental principles of the nonproliferation regime. Clearly, Indo-Pakistani and Indo-Chinese relations have a major, if not the key role to play there. We are trying to use Russia's weight and influence, to draw on our partnership relations with the United States and other states so as to influence the Pakistani stance and to resolve this problem in a comprehensive fashion, so as not to upset the balance in the subregion.

[Orlov] Currently, a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty is being drawn up in Geneva. As far as I know, the Russian Security Council has dwelled on this matter in detail.

[Manilov] Yes, we will be seeking to make it really comprehensive so that no one would carry out any testing, including ourselves. But there is something to think about there, and not only from the point of view of maintaining nuclear security. This is a universal problem, not one facing us alone. If someone says that he has found some electronic, testbed methods of handling this problem, he is being disingenuous. We are faced with a very serious problem of verification and the development of actually assured, most effective mechanisms of ensuring, in particular, the safety of munitions that have already become obsolete. Doing so without conducting such tests would be problematic. The problem has yet to be resolved. In that regard we need to decide: Is it reasonable to go on sticking with the Quixotic image of a country that once announced a moratorium as a goodwill gesture and ended up facing an increasing threat. There is a chance that, upon reflection, we would estimate a minimum of tests which would rule out the very possibility of a potentially gross violation of nuclear security. Sometimes one has to take a step back so as later to take two steps forward.

UN-Arranged Inter-Tajik Talks Open in Moscow

LD1904090195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0837 GMT 19 Apr 95

[ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Apr—Top of the agenda for the meeting between Tajik Government representatives and the Tajik opposition, which began here today, are the extension of the cease- fire in Tajikistan and the setting of a date for starting the fourth round of the inter-Tajik talks. The meeting was arranged through the mediation of Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, special envoy of the UN secretary general to Tajikistan, and is being held at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The Tajik Government delegation is led by First Deputy Prime Minister Mahmadsaid Ubaydullayev; the opposition delegation is headed by Haji Akbar Turajonzoda, one of the leaders of the Islamic Rebirth Movement of Tajikistan.

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Further on Tajik Government, Opposition Talks

LD1904100595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0941 GMT 19 Apr 95

[By Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 19 (ITAR-TASS)—The extension of the ceasefire agreement in Tajikistan and the setting of the date for the beginning of the fourth round of negotiations between Tajikistan's Government and the opposition are in the focus of the meeting between Tajik Government officials and the Tajik opposition which is being held in Moscow today.

The meeting was arranged through mediation by a special envoy of the U.N. secretary-general to Tajikistan, Ramiro Piris Ballona. It is being held in the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation from official Dushanbe is led by First Vice- Premier Mahmadsaid Ubaydullayev, and the opposition delegation is headed by one of the leaders of Tajikistan's Islamic Revival Movement Akbar Turadzhonzodah.

Before the beginning of the meeting in Moscow, the Embassy of Tajikistan in Moscow released a statement in which it stressed that "there is and can be no alternative to negotiations", and that all disputes must be settled through dialogue.

The official delegation from Dushanbe, the statement said, is duly authorised and prepared to conduct negotiations without any preliminary conditions, and it will make maximum efforts to ensure that the consultations prove successful.

As concerns the agenda, experts believe that no serious disputes are likely to arise in the course of the present Moscow meeting with regard to the need for extending the ceasefire agreement on the Tajik-Afghan border, whose term expires on April 26.

Both sides have repeatedly stressed that there is no worthy alternative to the ceasefire agreement signed in Tehran last autumn. It is another matter who and how implements the agreement.

The opposition has a special viewpoint on the matter which calls for the terms of the Tehran ceasefire accord to be made fully binding on the Russian border troops who protect the Tajik-Afghan border.

Moreover the opposition insists on the withdrawal from the conflict zone of 350 Tajik servicemen who had been sent there to protect an important stretch of the Tajik-Afghan border along the River Pyanj.

Chairman of the Islamic Revival Party Mukhhammadsharif Khimmadzoda told ITAR-TASS that Russia's failure to recognise the ceasefire agreement and the presence of an additional contingent of Tajik troops in the conflict zone were seen by the opposition as the main obstacles on the path leading to the fourth round of negotiations between the government and the opposition.

A high-ranking official of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs told ITAR-TASS however that this approach does not appear to be correct because Russia does recognise the ceasefire agreement, just as any other effective international accord. But attempts at extending its effect to Russian border guards is tantamount to recognising the Russian border troops as a third party to the conflict. It is impossible to agree to that.

The Russian Foreign Ministry official recalled that the Tajik conflict was exclusively internal in character and Russia only attends the negotiations on its settlement, mediated by the United Nations, only as an observer.

As concerns the Russian border troops, they are performing clearly defined functions of guarding the external frontiers of the commonwealth of independent states, the Russian official said.

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Russian General Asked To Head CIS Troops in Tajikistan

LD1904103895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1021 GMT 19 Apr 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 19 (ITAR-TASS)—The conference of the Council of Defence Ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Moscow asked Lieutenant-General Valentin Bobryshev to replace Colonel-General Valeriy Patrikeyev as the commander of the CIS peace-keeping forces in Tajikistan.

The public relations centre of headquarters for coordination of military cooperation among the CIS member-countries told ITAR-TASS today that the candidature would be discussed and approved at the next meeting of the heads of state of the Commonwealth member-countries.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 19 Apr

LD1904081295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0539 GMT 19 Apr 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 19 (ITAR-TASS)—Today's newspapers highlight preparations for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany in the Second World War.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) frontpages an article headlined "The great victory teaches us the main thing: faith in our people and our motherland" about the current international conference in Moscow on the subject "the lessons of the Second World War and the significance of the victory over fascism".

Summarising in detail the speeches made at the conference, specifically remarks by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, the newspaper points out that "the contemporaries still need to examine the essense" of the Second World War and its main component, Russia's great patriotic war.

The picture of the world radically changed in the second half of the 20th century as a result of this event, the newspaper states.

IZVESTIYA emphasises in this connection that the main concern of President Boris Yeltsin now is "to thoroughly prepare for a multitude of political activities marking the 50th anniversary of the victory".

"Undoubtedly the victory anniversary celebrations are an event of great social importance", the newspaper writes, pointing out that the president is to have a meeting with war veterans, discuss a festivities procedure with the leaders of the houses of parliament, and analyse documents prepared for meetings with the heads of state from the U.S., Germany and, possibly, some other countries.

At the same time the head of state "cannot but react to the current urgent political problems such as, for example, the complication of Russo-Ukrainian relations over the Crimea, the unceasing fighting in Chechnya, etc., IZVESTIYA said.

The newspaper is of the opinion that President Yeltsin intends to set about resolving these porblems after the victory anniversary celebrations.

"The complications that have arisen over the Crimea require additional consultations, primarily at government level. Much in this respect may be cleared up when Ukraine's acting premier Ye. marchuk arrives in Moscow. In order to ensure a calmer political background on the days of the victory anniversary celebrations, combat operations in Chechnya will not be conducted".

IZVESTIYA on migration service data.

According to the data of Russia's federal migration service, "320,812 people, who had to flee Chechnya in the period of December 8 to April 12 have been registered".

The refugees have been assigned 17,000 million roubles from the federal migration programme funds which are annually allocated from the budget. Another 30,600 million roubles have been provided for assistance to the refugees from the federal budget as a purpose- oriented grant. Thus, 148,300 roubles have been allocated per registered refugee. But even these small sums of money get embezzled, IZVESTIYA states.

ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA runs a commentary by Vladimir Tumanov, chief justice of the constituional court of the Russian Federation, on the court's ruling that the state Duma henceforth shall pass laws, decisions and resolutions, proceeding in vote-counting only from the constitution-ratified 450-member corps of deputies.

This is really important, for "this is a question of the stability of law and order and the ensurance of guarantees of our rights. The constitution stipulates that the Duma should have 450 members. So, vote-counting should proceed precisely from this figure. I believe that this ruling will become particularly topical following the election of a new make-up of the Duma.

"Today's practice of regional and territorial representatives bodies indicates that only 40-50 per cent of the necessary number of members are elected to them at times. They immediately get down to work, adopt their laws or resolutions, although the interests of a considerable proportion of the electorate are not represented in those legislative assemblies."

TRUD reports that new normative documents are being prepared to regulate the activities of financial companies.

"The new procedure should protect the rights of depositors," the newspaper quotes Russia's First Vice-Premier Anatoliy Chubays as saying.

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"A hard-and-fast procedure is needed to set out common rules for the issue of securities, their distribution and responsibility of those who issue them. This is precisely what we are working upon," Chubays pointed out.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA and NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA give prominence to the current founding congress of a Russian Industrial Party (R.I.P.) in Moscow.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA emphasises that "it is known that it was not today that the idea of founding such a party arose. Way back a couple of years ago, a respective decision was made at one of the congresses of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Businessmen. However, the idea did not receive a positive continuation, most probably, due to profound apathy that pervaded society after Gaydar- sponsored reforms.

"The situation is different now. The crisis which has literally gripped all the arteries of production has compelled directors, managers and even some proprietors again to raise the question of founding an industrial party".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA notes in this connection that "as contemplated by the party organisers, the R.I.P. will express the interests of 40 per cent of Russia's constituents."

The newspaper points out that "one of the main tasks of the new party will be to establish a new political centre and secure the regaining of the lost industrial might by the Russian Federation."

ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA writes with concern about the growth of mass food

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Officials Suspicious of Prospects for U.S.-Russia Relations

LD1804174195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 18 (Interfax)— U.S.-Russian relations can be described as a "strategic partnership" at the moment, though there are "certain difficulties and snags," the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's North American department, Nikolay Spasskiy, told parliamentary hearings in Moscow Tuesday.

Commenting on U.S. President Bill Clinton's forthcoming visit to Russia, Spasskiy remarked that his ministry was preparing issues for the two countries' presidents to discuss at the summit. A major package of issues will involve non-proliferation of nuclear arms, he added. The Russian Foreign Ministry also proposed for discussion issues concerning European security, particularly relations between Russia and NATO. Economic cooperation is also likely to be touched upon, Spasskiy added.

However, the director of the Institute for U.S. and Canada Studies, Sergey Rogov, argued at the hearings that "even if the summit proves successful, the deterioration of U.S.-Russian relations will continue." "Even if the U.S. administration changes as a result of the next elections, this is unlikely to lead to better relations between Russia and the U.S.," he added.

The head of the Russian Defense Ministry's Information and Analysis Department, Pavel Zolotaryov, told the same hearings that both Russia and the U.S. had such common interests as preserving strategic stability in the world, preventing nuclear arms from further proliferation, the fight against terrorism and peacekeeping. However, "a mechanism for coordinating the interests" has not yet been perfected, and the U.S. "want to see Russia at best as a loyal junior partner."

Further on Spasskiy Speech at Duma Hearings

LD1804221895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1645 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 April—Nikolay Spasskiy, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's North American Department, described the current stage of Russian-U.S. relations as a pragmatic partnership. Speaking at today's hearings in the State Duma's committee for international affairs, he pointed out the current difficulties in relations between the two countries.

Nikolay Spasskiy described natural objective differences in Russian and U.S. interests as the first "bloc" of these difficulties. The difficulties in economic cooperation have started playing an important role of late. The United States does not want to "share," i.e., to give Russia a proportion of markets, including those of uranium and firearms. In turn, Russian entrepreneurs are sometimes not fit to do business in a civilized market.

The Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman described the United States' difficult adaptation to the world's new realities as yet another barrier to the development of bilateral relations. While in the past, the United States adhered to the principle of paternalism, today equal and honest dealing is the order of the day. After the USSR collapsed, Russia has had fewer problems in adjusting to the new realities of the world, according to Nikolay Spasskiy.

Further, the Russian Foreign Minister's senior official recalled that the United States in fact has already started a new election cycle. "We do not regard the U.S. Republican Party as an enemy or a dark force," Spasskiy said. "However, the election maneuvering will naturally affect U.S. international policy, too, including the current administration's course vis-a-vis Russia."

The Chechen tragedy has considerably compounded affairs with some Western partners, Nikolay Spasskiy said. There were and are forces in America which reject outright the idea of Russian-U.S. partnership, and Chechnya has provided them with a certain trump card.

Official Predicts Worsening Russia-U.S. Relations

MK1904094095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 19 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Vladimir Abarinov, Petr Zhuravlev in the "Hearings" column: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Is Not Afraid of Contradictions Between Moscow and Washington. People at the U.S.A. and Canada Institute Believe There Is Something To Fear"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow does not regard the upcoming Russian-U.S. summit as an official "full-fledged" meeting at the top level. This was announced by Nikolay Spasskiy, director of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs U.S. Department, yesterday at hearings in the State Duma International Affairs Committee. Nonetheless the diplomats, according to him, would like to take advantage of the situation in order to "talk through" a number of subjects. Spasskiy cited strengthening the nonproliferation regime and European security, strategic armaments, and some matters of economic cooperation, including the problem of anti-dumping actions and the fate of the discriminatory Jackson-Vanick amendment, among the main problems which interest Russia.

The diplomat considers contradictions between Moscow and Washington on particular matters as "natural" and "normal." The Americans, in his opinion, "have trouble accepting the new norms of conduct, the rules of an equitable game and mutual benefit." On the other hand, the difficulties of Russia's economic development have

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shown that it is not ready to enter world markets. Nonetheless the characterization of bilateral relations as "pragmatic partnership" is still in force.

Sergey Rogov, U.S.A. and Canada Institute director, who also spoke at the hearings, for his part predicted a worsening in Russian-U.S. relations this coming fall, when in particular "difficulties will arise" around the time of the implementation of the CFE Treaty and the admission of new members to NATO.

Rogov regards the fact that "despite the end of the Cold War, Russia and the United States are still in a state of mutual nuclear containment" and that until now the model of war between the two countries—even if in theory—has not been abandoned, as one of the main obstacles in the way of partnership. The scholar recalled instances of submarines appearing in our northern seas, and also the Pentagon's statement promising to resume the production of W-88 warheads for Trident missiles.

Even so, Sergey Rogov said there is "a common point" for cooperation: "Neither they nor we want some third party to dominate the world in the 21st century—moreover, at our expense."

Karasin Backs Grachev CFE Obligations Statements

LD1804125595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1149 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 April—The statements by Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to the effect that Russia may not fulfill some provisions of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe [CFE] reflect the Russian side's real concern and requirements in the context of ensuring state security, Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry press and information department, told a briefing today.

We are counting on the United States and our other partners, with whom we are making efforts to build a new Europe of the 21st century and the appropriate architecture of security, to regard our position with understanding and to take account of Russian Federation interests. For Russia it is indisputable that the solution of all issues relating to this problem should be tackled on a platform of partnership and constructive cooperation, which takes attentive and respectful account of one another's positions.

Expert Says Conventional Arms Treaty Needs Updating

LD1804120595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1132 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—The agreement on Conventional Arms in Europe [CFE] signed in Paris on November 19, 1990 no longer reflects present-day realities and must be revised, albeit not completely, according to Boris Zhelezov, an expert of the Centre for National Security and International Relations.

Zhelezov said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS today that the agreement was signed in conditions of confrontation between the world's largest military-political alliances, the North Atlantic Alliance and the Warsaw Treaty Organisation.

The break-up of the Soviet Union and the collapse of the Warsaw bloc radically changed the geopolitical and military situation not only in Europe but also in the whole world, Zhelezov said.

A shift in proportions occurred for Russia which now has to deploy its arms not in the south, where it is less costly, but along the west-east line and in the Kaliningrad region, where the costs are much higher.

To make the matters worse, Russia may not deploy more than 700 tanks, 500 armoured vehicles and 1,200 artillery systems in the Leningrad and north Caucasian military districts, even though these two districts occupy more than one half of European Russia.

The agreement on Conventional Arms in Europe discriminates against Russia also the economic sphere, Boris Zhelezov said. The country's south has infrastructure for troops deployment. The construction of several military settlements is nearing completion there, and the upkeep of the troops in southern regions is much less costly than in the country's northern, Siberian or far eastern regions. With the present military budget close to its lowest and with chronic shortage of resources, this factor cannot be ignored, he said.

Both Russian and foreign military and politicians are fully aware of the need for setting the situation straight, but things are not making headway beyond proposals.

The agreement does not need a radical restructuring. Its main provisions remain in force but European security will not suffer in the least if conventional arms and equipment are not removed from their assigned storage facilities, Zhelezov said.

However, these measures which would meet Russia's national security interests have run against resistance from the western partners who are seeking to constrain our country within the stiff framework of the agreement, he said.

Incidentally, the suspension of some articles of the agreement would not run counter to world practice and would not pose a threat to European and other countries, Boris Zhelezov said.

Grachev Remark on CFE Reflects 'New Realities'

LD1804200395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1802 GMT 18 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 18 (Interfax)—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's recent statement that Moscow may unilaterally suspend the CFE [Conventional Armed Forces in Europe] treaty reflects concern about Russia's national security, Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin said at a briefing on Tuesday.

He said Moscow hoped the United States would understand the new challenges facing Russia.

Karasin said that the CFE treaty was signed in a totally different political situation with the former USSR.

Now we have new realities, Karasin said.

At the same time he voiced the hope that partnership between Russia and the West would help resolve all, even the most complicated problems in the spirit of friendship and cooperation.

NATO Expansion May Lead to 'Cold Peace'

LD1904090495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0845 GMT 19 Apr 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 19 (ITAR-TASS)— NATO's eastward expansion creates tension and does not meet the interests of European security, according to an expert of the Centre for National Security and International Relations Igor Sutyagin.

Sutyagin said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS today that there was no urgent need for the hasty expansion of the North Atlantic Alliance. He said this view was shared not only by Russian but also by foreign analysts.

According to Sutyagin, both Russian and foreign experts are confident that the so-called Russian threat to East-European countries is an invention and serves as a pretext for accomplishing economic tasks with the help of Western states.

The hasty admission to NATO membership of member-countries of the "Visegrad Four" is likely to aggravate the situation in Europe. This aggravation, according to Sutyagin, will affect first of all the Baltic countries in which the rights of the non-indigenous inhabitants are being violated. They will have to appeal to the Western allies to deploy army contingents of the North Atlantic Alliance on the Baltic coasts. Any deployment of NATO troops in the immediate proximity of the Russian borders, just as the joint exercises and the recent calls of foreign warships at Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian ports, cannot fail to evoke an adequate reaction on the part of the Russian Armed Forces. They will have to concentrate troops there in order to protect the most vulnerable spots.

Igor Sutyagin described as nonsensical statements about Russia's potential aggressiveness. Western politicians whom he met voiced apprehension that following Russia's economic revival, its army and navy would regain their strength and threaten Europe for their defeat in the Cold War.

According to the russian expert, these viewpoints on the process of historical events is capable of leading to a policy of "cold peace", which is no less dangerous for the fate of the European countries than the protracted past era of total tension on the continent.

Kozyrev: Russia Favors Partnership With NATO

LD1904105895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1048 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 19 (ITAR-TASS)— Russia favours the development of partnership relations with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation as a sensible and pragmatic variant which fully meets Russian interests, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Andrey Kozyrev told journalists today.

"Work now continues on Moscow's position concerning interaction with the North Atlantic Alliance," he said. "It is not a simple question and it requires a collective, inter-state efforts", Kozyrev stressed.

According to the Russian minister, efforts should be made to avoid extremes, be it NATO's eastward expansion and Moscow's rejection of partnership with the alliance, or the demand that the North Atlantic Alliance be disbanded.

"We should follow the path between the extremes for several years without sliding either towards the rejection of partnership or the expansion of NATO, and then decide whether the alliance should exist in its present form or another organisation should be established as a replacement," the Russian minister said. He said he did not rule out either version.

Chernomyrdin Says NATO Expansion Will Bring 'Nothing Good'

LD1904120995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1006 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 19 (Interfax)—Russian prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin confirmed basic Russian objections to the expansion of NATO at his negotiations with Swedish premier Ingvar Carlsson in Moscow today.

Commenting on the meeting results, Chernomyrdin told correspondents that the expansion of NATO "in any direction will bring nothing good."

Chernomyrdin praised the stand of neutral European nations, including Sweden, Austria and Finland. In his words, these states were "an oasis of safety" even during the Cold War and their experience is very important. "Sweden has only gained by its neutrality," stressed the

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government head. He said that the stands of Moscow and Stockholm on the expansion of NATO "mainly coincide."

In his turn, Carlsson noted that Sweden does not interfere in the stands of other states on security. He confirmed that Stockholm does not plan to join NATO and does not have instruments to influence the policy of the military-political alliance. However, this stand "does not prevent Sweden from calling for consolidated collective security at the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] forum," noted Carlsson.

The negotiations of Chernomyrdin and Carlsson have resulted in the signing of two agreements—on encouragement and mutual protection of investments and on joint measures against crime.

Commenting on results of the negotiations, Chernomyrdin said he had handed to his Swedish counterpart a package of proposals on joint investment in space and construction of ports in Russia's Kaliningrad and Murmansk regions. Describing the state of trade- economic relations with Stockholm, Chernomyrdin said that Sweden is one of the few states Russia increased its goods turnover with in 1994. The turnover exceeded $1 billion last year.

Carlsson noted good prospects for the development of bilateral relations. He promised to study the Russian cooperation proposals very carefully.

Chernomyrdin spoke to correspondents about what he told Carlsson about the Chechen situation. In his words, Moscow "is doing its best and using political and negotiation possibilities" to settle the Chechen crisis. "The problem is that we have no-one to hold negotiations with in Chechnya," he added. At the same time, some heads of illegal armed units have started negotiations with the federal authorities and laid down arms. "But our main concern in Chechnya is to restore the economy of this republic," noted Chernomyrdin.

Chernomyrdin: Sweden's View of NATO Coincides With Russia's

LD1904094895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0932 GMT 19 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Ezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 19 (ITAR-TASS)—"Russia's and Sweden's positions on the problem of NATO's expansion in many ways coincide," - said Chairman of the Russian Government Viktor Chernomyrdin in an interview to journalists upon completion of the talks with his Swedish counterpart Ingvar Carlsson on Wednesday [19 April]. The Russian prime minister pointed out that Sweden had shown to the world a good experience of maintaining neutrality, especially in the period of the "Cold War." "The fact that Sweden did not take part in military alliances was a kind of a pole attracting other countries, and today, we are reminding of the example set by Sweden when we declare that we are against NATO's expansion," the Russian prime minister said.

For his part, the Swedish prime minister pointed out that sweden is not interfering when other countries assess their security. He pointed out that since Sweden is not a member of NATO's alliance, it is exercising no influence on the situation in this alliance. Sweden does not intend to join NATO and that is the Swedish policy of security, stressed the Swedish premier. He pointed out that this does not mean that Sweden makes no efforts with the aim of strengthening the European security. "We are actively advocating this policy in the framework of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe]. It is in the framework of this organization that Sweden wants to strengthen security in Europe," - stressed the Swedish prime minister.

Yeltsin Praises Relations With Sweden After Setbacks

LD1904104995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1030 GMT 19 Apr 95

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 19 (ITAR-TASs)—Russian relations with Sweden have overcome the setbacks of the past and are developing in the "best way", President Boris Yeltsin told visiting Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson on Wednesday [19 April].

"Relations of friendship and cooperation, of good neighbourliness have never developed between Russia and Sweden in such a way as they do now", Yeltsin stressed.

He recalled that in the past there were "certain mishaps, and certain misunderstandings" in bilateral relations. The president was referring to Soviet submarines in Swedish waters, to the case of Raul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who was arrested by soviet secret police in Budapest in 1945 and died in Stalinist Gulag, and to the DC-3 airplane downed in 1952 and the fate of the crews of Swedish ships, which disappeared in the Baltic during the last war.

Russian and Swedish relations were darkened by "missing ships, submarines, the Wallenberg case", but now they are developing "in the best way", Yeltsin said.

TASS learned from well-informed sources that Yeltsin and Carlsson discussed issues of European development, joint efforts within the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe], as well as bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Kozyrev: Force Valid To Defend Russian Nationals Abroad

LD1804093595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0841 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Valeriy Sevryukov and Andrey Urban]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Apr—The arsenal of means to defend the interests of compatriots abroad may include not only verbal expression of dissatisfaction on the part of the Foreign Ministry, but also, in individual cases, the use of armed force. The question is what use to make of this arsenal without pushing any of these measures to the absolute, in particular the use of force. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated this today at a session of Russia's Council on Foreign and Defense Policy. The participants discussed the problems of the Russophone population in the CIS and Baltic countries and Russia's role in settling these problems.

Debates on the problem of the Russophone population abroad should not be the subject of political struggle and pre-election speculations, Andrey Kozyrev believes. It is too delicate and painful a subject. However, whipping up Russophobia is a direct way of isolating Russia and of leading events to develop along the lines of the Yugoslav scenario in the huge expanses of the former Soviet Union.

The Russian Foreign Ministry, Andrey Kozyrev stressed, initiated not only the drawing up of the presidential decree on the main lines of Russian state policy regarding compatriots resident abroad but also the government resolution on measures to support compatriots. The most effective way of giving direct support for compatriots could be interregional cooperation along the lines of regional cooperation in Europe. This will make it possible to avoid unnecessary politicization of such links and will draw them to the level of direct contacts, Andrey Kozyrev stressed.

Further on Kozyrev Comments on Protecting Russians

LD1804212495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1802 GMT 18 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 18 (Interfax)—Addressing the Council for Foreign Policies, which discussed the position of ethnic Russians in CIS countries and in the Baltic states on Tuesday, Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said that the possibility of using "direct force" to protect ethnic Russians abroad was not ruled out.

"There is a large arsenal of means of protecting our compatriots—from the expression of mild dissatisfaction by an anonymous representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry, to the application of political and economic sanctions," said Kozyrev. "In certain instances the use of direct military force might be necessary to protect our compatriots abroad," he continued. "However, ways of using this arsenal is a special question. One should not give an absolute status to these means, including the use of force," he said.

He said that "the position of ethnic Russians in many of the CIS countries is still unsatisfactory, which can be judged from the stream of immigrants in Russia."

He also announced that "in 1994, 254,500 people had to migrate to Russia from CIS countries, above all Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan."

"A paradoxical situation has emerged. On the one hand, there is a massive package of declarations by the CIS leaders for the protection of ethnic minorities. On the other hand, there is the continuing, sometimes aggravated issue of enforcing these rights," Kozyrev said.

He said he was worried over the delayed development of the CIS human rights convention. "A number of our partners seek to avoid signing the convention referring to their sovereignty. Meanwhile, the question is the creation of an effective tool to solve humanitarian issues within the Commonwealth, which will prove effective for their sovereignty. We will seek completing the document," he added.

Kozyrev said the main difficulty was "the limited use of the Russian language and the narrowing possibilities for ethnic Russians to occupy leading posts in the state machinery or industry."

He said, however, that "with the exception of Estonia and Latvia, there is no talk about any deliberate policy of banishing ethnic Russians." "What is meant here is manifestations of pressure or discrimination at a day-to-day or administrative levels," he said.

In his opinion, "cooperation between regions and administrations heads enables them to solve the issue through their day-to-day interaction without bringing it to an interstate conflict."

He warned that the problem of protecting ethnic Russians might be used in the political struggle or in the election speculations and said that attempts to manipulate the problem are being made already.

"Some call for protecting the rights of our compatriots through diktat and threats, or even through redrawing the borders, while others call for a 'thrust to the south,'" he said. "Neglecting the lessons of history, like about half a century ago, they try to proclaim one, whichever, people select. But virtually, it is selected to be sacrificed to their political ambitions," he added.

According to Kozyrev, another side of the issue was neglect of other peoples, be it the Kazakh, Uzbek or "so-called persons of the Jewish or Caucasian nationality" in the bureaucratic language.

"All of these speculations and nationalist games are giving rise to an even worse Russophobia, which is a direct way to Russia's isolation or the Yugoslav scenario on the vast expanses of the former Soviet Union," said Andrey Kozyrev.

"The true care of Russians, whether ethnic Russians or of other nationalities, does not have anything in common with hysterics with parliamentary microphones, nor with outraging upon the flags of foreign, moreover brother-like states," he emphasized.

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According to Kozyrev, the protection of ethnic Russians abroad is an issue "of the state policy as a whole." "Both the government, legislative power, wide public, businessmen, culture workers and individuals are affected by this issue and at the same time bear responsibility for its resolution," he remarked.

Kozyrev made several comments on the Russian embassies and consular missions in the CIS and Baltic states.

"During all of these years, starting with nothing, they have been trying to improve their work pressured by a mass of compatriots who ask questions, demand assistance, answers, etc.," he said.

Kozyrev said last year these offices had issued 143,000 Russian passports in Uzbekistan, 76,000 in Kazakhstan, 65,000 in Estonia, etc. "This means about 10,000 to 20,000 passports for each employee of the embassy, including the ambassador and the driver," he added.

Lebed, Lukin, Zatulin React to Kozyrev Statement

LD1804204995 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] General Lebed, commander of the 14th Army and chairman of the Congress of Russian Communities, said in an interview to the Ekho Moskvy radio station that he fully supports Kozyrev's statement and noted that he is ready to use force in order to protect the Russian-speaking population abroad:

[Begin Lebed recording] Suppose a Russian citizen has been insulted. Trained forces should be used who will resolve the problem in 48 hours, or 72 hours at most, and who will not drag their heels for five months, endlessly. Russia must stop at nothing. It must show clearly to the whole world that this person is its citizen. It must once and for all put off all those who wish to encroach on the honor and dignity of a citizen of the Russian state. So if such a decision has been made, I welcome it. We should spell it all out, in a tough and clear manner. Everyone must know his own place and his own economic, political, military, and other possibilities, and we should live within our limits. [end recording]

According to Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Duma Committee for International Affairs, statements similar to today's statement by Kozyrev are only to the detriment of our compatriots:

[Begin Lukin recording] Russia is growing poorer in power but richer in power ministers. The general tone of relations with indigenous populations is becoming worse and worse. The latter feel that any day now somebody might crack down on them, which is not true and can never happen. So it seems we are doing them a bad turn. We must indeed have in reserve various means of exerting pressure, mainly non-military, in order to help our compatriots by deeds, not by words. [end recording]

In his turn, Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the Duma Committee for CIS Affairs, believes that the parliament should adopt a declaration on providing protection for Russians living abroad:

[Begin Zatulin recording] Tasks connected with integration should primarily be the cornerstone of our foreign policy. In my view, it is impossible to find a solution to the problem of our compatriots abroad—in a broad sense, of course, I do not refer to Russians alone—apart from the reintegration of the post-Soviet expanse in a decent modern way, not as a repetition or return to the former Soviet Union, but with new forms of integration. There have been illusions with regard to this problem, the former illusions of Yeltsin and Kozyrev, that a zero option is possible. It has transpired that this was political posturing. Russia is not able to take all its citizens back at present without increasing the ranks of the unemployed, prostitutes, and criminals. [end recording]

Kozyrev Statement on 'Use of Force' Personal View

LD1904135895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1318 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 19 (Interfax-Ukraine)—The statement of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on the possible "use of force" for protection of the Russian-speaking population abroad "is the point of view of the minister but not of Russia's executive power as a whole," head of the presidential administration Dmitriy Tabachnik declared at a briefing in Ukraine's presidential administration.

Kozyrev voiced this statement at the session of the Foreign Policy Council in Moscow. Kozyrev also declared that Ukraine should take into consideration the will of Crimeans while solving the Crimean issue.

According to Tabachnik, often actions of the Russian politicians can be determined "by momentary considerations" but not by Russia's long-term interests. He supposed that one should assess Kozyrev's statement bearing in mind the upcoming elections in Russia.

"Kozyrev is a State Duma deputy and he would probably not abandon the wish to continue his political career," Tabachnik said.

He underlined that the meeting between Ukraine's acting Prime Minister Yevhan Marchuk and Russian President Boris Yeltsin and other negotiations with the Russian leaders prove that "the opinion of the people who adopt the decisions in Russia substantially differs from Kozyrev's position."

Chernomyrdin on Lessons of World War II

LD1804132995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1302 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov and Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—"A new world war is not inevitable if all countries and peoples rally in the common striving to prevent it. Such is the lesson of the Second World War", Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian prime minister, said in the

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parliamentary centre on Tuesday. He delivered the main report at the international scientific conference "Lessons of the Second World War and the Importance of the Victory Over Fascism".

The historic victory over Fascism was a result of joint efforts of more than 50 countries of the anti-Hitler coalition, Chernomyrdin said. He described the summing up of the lessons of the war and victory as the "necessary condition for bringing up all generations in the spirit of readiness to serve devotedly the motherland and its people. [no closing quotation marks as received] The Soviet Union lost 27 million lives in the years of the Second World War. Total loss of life in the Soviet Armed Forces, together with frontier guards and interior troops, made up 8,668,100 people. These figures were cited in Chernomyrdin's report on Tuesday.

Chernomyrdin said the Soviet Union accounted for 41 per cent of all losses sustained by countries that participated in the Second World War. The USSR's total material losses amounted to 679 billion roubles, including those of the Russian Federation amounting to 219 billion roubles in 1941 prices.

The victory over Fascism ensured sovereignty and independence of our country, removed the main obstacles to the free development of the civilisation and created new conditions and possibilities for social renewal and for the assertion of ideals of democracy and humanism, Chernomyrdin said.

Grachev, Chernomyrdin Appraise WWII

MM1804203595 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Yuriy Rubtsov: "The Great Victory Teaches Us the Most Important Thing—Faith in Our People and Our Fatherland"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ancients remarked that epoch-making events are like mountain peaks. They appear in their true greatness only at a remove, at a certain historical distance. This observation applies in full measure to World War II and its chief constituent—the Great Patriotic War. Our contemporaries' need to understand the essence of that event, which cardinally changed the picture of the world in the second half of the 20th century, is inescapable. A new such attempt has been made on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the great victory: The international scientific conference "Lessons of World War II-and the Significance of the Victory Over Fascism" has begun its work in Moscow.

Its organizers are the Council of CIS Heads of State, the Russian Federation Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Coordinating Council for Cooperation Among CIS Veterans' Organizations. Participating in the conference's work are Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government; Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council; Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense; delegations from the CIS countries, and representatives of other foreign states.

The plenary session was opened with an introductory speech by Army General Pavel Grachev. The great victory was won 50 years ago, he said, and it crowned the heroic efforts of freedom-loving peoples in the struggle against German fascism. In an incredibly hard and bloody war the Soviet Union's Armed Forces upheld the fatherland's freedom and national sovereignty, inflicted a crushing military, political, and moral defeat on Hitlerite Germany, and delivered the peoples of Europe from fascist slavery. In saving world civilization, Soviet servicemen, partisans, members of underground organizations, and working people in the rear accomplished a great feat in the name of mankind, in the name of the generations alive on the earth today. We also recall with gratitude the inestimable contribution to victory of our allies—the servicemen of the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition, the resistance fighters, and the members of the antifascist underground.

At the suggestion of Army General Pavel Grachev the conference participants honored with a minute's silence the memory of the veterans who fell in the struggle against fascism and who have departed this life.

Unfortunately, the Russian Federation minister of defense went on to point out, the danger of the emergence of regional armed conflicts, which could be the spark that might ignite the flames of a big war, exists even today. The experience of the anti-Hitler coalition—that unique military-political alliance of states and peoples—teaches that, given the desire, it is possible to find effective ways to overcome disagreements and an alternative to dangerous confrontation. This is why it is so essential at the present stage to develop and strengthen political and military cooperation among states with an interest in preserving stability in the world.

Army General Pavel Grachev dwelt especially on the lessons of World War II—the political, economic, social, and spiritual lessons which, in his opinion, have still not been drawn in full. This category undoubtedly includes military lessons. Chief among these is the fact that sufficiently powerful Armed Forces, capable of resolving a wide range of strategic tasks, are needed in order to successfully repulse any aggression and to reliably ensure the country's security. This requires constant concern for their strengthening, their building, and their improvement, for the development of military art and science, and for the personnel's patriotic, military, and moral education.

Army General Grachev emphasized that the history and experience of World War II and the Great Patriotic War undoubtedly merit further all-around study and interpretation. An indispensable condition of this is their illumination from a position of historical truth—for which all the necessary conditions exist in Russia.

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Next Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government, delivered the report "The War. The People. The Victory." Memories of the last war are not dependent on time, he declared. Even now Victory Day is the brightest, most joyous festival and, at the same time, a sad one. We bow our heads both to the memory of those who fell and in gratitude to the living participants in that war.

There have been clear expectations in our society that on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the victory the Russian leadership would unequivocally express its position on the most important problems of the war's history, which have recently found themselves the subject of debate and even the object of speculation. I believe that such assessments were heard from the government chairman's lips. Above all, Viktor Chernomyrdin resolutely objected to the thesis of the USSR's responsibility for unleashing the war. Without belittling the efforts of our allies in the anti-Hitler coalition,, he also deemed it necessary particularly to emphasize that the largest-scale events occurred on the Soviet-German front and that precisely our country played the decisive role in defeating fascism.

In modern journalism you frequently hear claims that the USSR's tremendous human and material losses cast doubt on the very possibility of speaking of victory in the Great Patriotic War. Proposals are even made to rename Victory Day a day of mourning for the dead.

Yes, the Soviet Union accounted for over 40 percent of all the losses borne by the countries involved in World War II. The Soviet people placed 27 million human lives and material assets worth 679 billion rubles on the altar of victory. It was, after all, thanks to such historically unprecedented selflessness that Hitlerite Germany's plans for enslaving and physically destroying "people of lesser race," by which the Nazis meant the majority of the peoples inhabiting our earth, were thwarted. It was thanks to them—these sacrifices—that the chief obstacle to the development of human civilization was eliminated: fascism. To deny the fact of our victory against this background, Viktor Chernomyrdin emphasized, would mean insulting a whole generation of our compatriots for the sake of political gain.

Among the most important factors in the victory the premier named the most lofty patriotism of Soviet people, the outstanding military skill of ordinary soldiers, the commanding art of military chiefs, the authority of the state power in the eyes of the population, and the international unity of the USSR's peoples.

It might seem to some people that this line has been borrowed from old agitprop textbooks. But time has proved the significance of these factors, however much certain debunkers of history might look askance at them. I am sure that this is why the main speaker placed special emphasis on them. While making a principled assessment of manifestations of totalitarianism in the past, at the same time he emphasized much that is positive and that ought to be utilized in building a democratic Russia.

Viktor Chernomyrdin urged those present to make an impartial assessment of and to deal a rebuff to propaganda of fascist symbols and to the spreading stream of chauvinist and anti-Semitic literature which, alas, has become a sign of our times. On the other hand, a rebuff must also be dealt to the antiscientific and simply humanly unjust talk to the effect that there was no liberation of the countries enslaved by the Hitlerite fascists but just their occupation by the USSR.

In conclusion the chairman of the Russian Federation Government addressed words of gratitude to the war veterans. It is a matter of the state's honor to show them all possible concern, he declared, and he gave an assurance that the government will strive persistently for the full realization of the privileges and benefits due to front-line soldiers. We ask the veterans to pass on to the young the feeling of confidence in ultimate victory, as well as the elation they experienced 9 May 1945. There is a special need today for precisely these feelings, Viktor Chernomyrdin emphasized.

The conference participants listened to the coreports submitted by the Ukrainian and Belarusian delegations and also to a greetings message from the International Organization of World War II Historians.

The work of the international scientific conference will be continued 19 April.

Mikhaylov: U.S. Plays 'Double Game' in Nuclear Sale to Iran

BR1804143095 Madrid ABC in Spanish 17 Apr 95 p 30

[Interview with Russian Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov by Juan Cierco in Moscow; date not given: "Mikhaylov: 'The West Wants to Get Hold of Russia's Nuclear Shield and Market'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The offensive has not been matched since the Cold War. The Western countries have put all their weight on the table to keep Moscow's nuclear ambitions on a tight rein. The arguments of the international community—with Washington in the lead—fail to convince the Kremlin. Viktor Mikhaylov, Russian atomic energy minister, accuses the United States and its allies of using double two-faced language.

The battle, which is more characteristic of a decade ago than of the "new world order," has several fronts, although all of them have a common goal, according to Mikhaylov: "To close us off from a market which used to be ours and which the Western nuclear powers seek to appropriate for commercial interests."

[Cierco] Why is the United States pressuring Russia so strongly to make it cancel the sale of nuclear reactors to Iran?

[Mikhaylov] In 1984 Mikhail Gorbachev concluded a long-term cooperation program with Iran in the following areas: scientific, nuclear, industrial, and commercial. The project included the peaceful use of atomic

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energy. The compromise was reached openly; everybody has known about it since 1992 and now, all of a sudden, some people are screaming murder.

[Cierco] Why?

[Mikhaylov] Washington's stormy reaction is based on three reasons. First, the Persian Gulf is of considerable strategic interest to the United States. Second, the political situation in Washington has changed considerably over the last months due to the massive arrival of Republicans in the U.S. Congress. Third, some people are trying to take advantage of Russia's complex economic situation to put pressure on us, to control us, and to try and teach us the rules of the new world order.

[Cierco] Can Iran benefit from the Russian aid to construct nuclear arms?

[Mikhaylov] Tehran has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty voluntarily and has always strictly complied with the IAEA's demands. Iran agrees to submit itself to an IAEA inspection every three months, something which the Americans did not even get from North Korea, with whom they are trying to conclude the same deal as we did with the Iranians... The U.S. concern over the possible production of nuclear arms in Iran is unfounded.

[Cierco] However, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has just declared that he cannot guarantee that Iran will play it clean.

[Mikhaylov] One can never absolutely guarantee anything. I can only tell you that the United States is considering the construction in North Korea of a nuclear plant which is identical to ours in Iran and that Pyongyang has a scientific capacity which is superior to that of Iran... Look, article four of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty already states that the nuclear powers must help the nonnuclear countries in the peaceful use of atomic energy, but some seem to have forgotten this.

[Cierco] Are you perhaps rejecting the West's accusations?

[Mikhaylov] The only thing the United States wants is to do business at our expense. They have already excluded us from their uranium market because our technology for enrichment of this mineral is superior to theirs. They have also excluded us from North Korea, whose market they control together with Japan and South Korea. Washington has demonstrated on more than one occasion that it does business with "outlaw" countries: Israel did not sign the NPT, South Africa also violated the treaty but this never mattered to the United States, and now they are scandalized by our agreement with Iran. They are trying to take on themselves powers which belong to the United Nations, the IAEA, the NPT, and at times they are playing a double game.

[Cierco] Can you establish a parallel between the sale of Russian reactors to Iran and the setup by German secret services of nuclear traffic?

[Mikhaylov] Of course: It is an attempt to prove that Russia cannot control its nuclear arsenal, that our nuclear shield is cracking, and that the West's direct intervention, through which we would lose our independence, is necessary. Last year we already said that the accusation of nuclear trafficking was a fix in which the German secret services participated. Now it has been proved that we were right.

[Cierco] But the uranium and plutonium which were discovered at the time—were they Russian?

[Mikhaylov] The IAEA knew from the start that this material did not come from Russia. If we wanted to sell it in Pakistan, why would we first have brought it to Munich? It would have been much easier to transport it directly through our Asiatic borders. It did not make sense and now the reason has been shown. The facts do not leave us any room for doubt: The West wants to control our nuclear shield. For this, they try to create instability around the Russian nuclear industry in order to later be able to control it. All that is missing is for them to send the "Blue Helmets..."

Rybkin: Nuclear Reactor for Iran Poses No Threat

LD1804144295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1430 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Tamara Ivanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—The kind of a nuclear power plant offered to Iran on a basis of a commercial deal does not pose the threat about which it is talked so much. Speaker of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin said this on Tuesday at a meeting with press attaches of countries of the CIS. He said the examination of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed the safety of the nuclear power plant and that it cannot be used as a basis for manufacturing nuclear weapons nor even providing conditions for their creation as it has a light water reactor. It is ensured that a station be quake-proof.

Since IAEA is an independent international expert and favours the project, Rybkin believes there are no obstacles to the construction.

Russia is not the first to build nuclear power plants of this kind in Iran, the speaker said. He noted that Russia had not trained if only one physicist for Iran. Nuclear scientists for Iran were trained by the United States. Efforts were made to convince Russia not to offer such projects in Xinjiang, but France has done so. "The same happens in other places: Russia is being discouraged from construction and its ideas of construction are being discredited while those who engage in such efforts work there themselves", the speaker said.

Regarding Russia's commercial interests, Rybkin said that in future "we shall not engage in trade, economic or political grumbling but we shall be acting vigorously as befits a country having high technologies and projects of

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the highest class". It goes without saying that Russia will no longer be selling anything for love. This applies to arms sales, too.

The speaker of the State Duma stressed that Russian foreign trade is aimed at mutual advantage, at full observance of mutual dignity and interests. This is the attitude of the overwhelming majority in the State Duma, in the Federation Council and in the governmental and presidential structures.

Commentary on U.S. Reaction to Russia-Iran Nuclear Deal

LD1904145195 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 19 Apr 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton is determined to make Russia renounce its intention to supply nuclear reactors to Iran. Clinton stated this at a news conference in Washington. Here is our commentary:

[Igor Rostovtsev] The question of our supplies to Iran has seriously disturbed relations between Moscow and Washington recently. The United States, as stated on many occasions, is afraid of Tehran using Russian equipment to manufacture nuclear weapons. At the same time what is not taken into account is that the IAEA in charge of monitoring such projects has no misgivings about Russia or Iran. In the view of that international organization, the Russo- Iranian deal is unlikely to be a prelude to Iran developing a nuclear bomb. What is at issue now is Russia's implementation of a commercial program, something which will yield $1 billion. In fact, the United States is not restrictive about its own practices. In this connection, instances of the U.S. supplies of helicopters, communication satellites and computer systems to Iran, which can be fully used for military purposes, can be noted. It is also well- known that U.S. light water nuclear reactors to be supplied to North Korea, can be used for development of plutonium-based weapons. It seems that the United States wants to get high profits for itself, preventing others, Russia in particular, from doing the same. How else can one explain the U.S.'s growing influence on our country? Tricks are used, such as the threats of Iran possessing a nuclear bomb, something which by all accounts is designed to distract the attention of the world public from some of the rather slippery aspects of the American business. The Russian Foreign Ministry believes that if cooperation in the nuclear sphere is fully in keeping with the interests of Russia and with her ideas of the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, Russian must not make any concessions or ask anybody's permission.

Official Links Sale of Uranium to Iranian Nuclear Deal

LD1904073995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0717 GMT 19 Apr 95

[By Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington April 19 (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian-Iranian agreement on delivering nuclear reactors to Tehran is "in the stage of final specification", but will not be signed earlier than in September-October, Russian Deputy Premier and Foreign Trade Minister Oleg Davydov told TASS Wednesday.

He hinted, however, that the deal may have a different future if the U.S. agrees to buy Russian uranium.

Davydov, who is on a working visit in the United States, called for a wider cooperation with Washington, including in nuclear power engineering and "in uranium shipments, in particular". "If the issue 'of uranium shipments' is solved, then the Russian-Iranian agreement can be considered from another point of view", he said.

"We are strategic partners of the United States and therefore can hold talks on the 'nuclear deal' issue", Davydov said adding that "one may understand the U.S. concern over the possibility that Russia can provide technologies for iran which would allow it to accelerate the creation of nuclear weapons".

At the same time, Davydov stressed that "Russia is not going to violate any of the requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency regarding the nuclear nonproliferation regime".

"We are not going to transfer nuclear technologies to anyone, including Iran", he said.

Karasin Urges 'Soonest' Fulfillment of Iraq Resolution

LD1804162895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1555 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—Russia stands for the soonest fulfilment of Resolution 986 of the United Nations Security Council adopted on April 14 to permit Iraqi oil exports, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing here today.

When the draft resolution was being prepared, the Russian side proceeded from the need for emergency measures to ease the catastrophic situation in Iraq and sanctions in order to improve the position of the Iraqi population. Coordinated efforts, including those of Russian diplomats, considerably improved the initial draft resolution with due account of Russian interests. The resolution includes a provision on Iraqi obligations to pay the debt to other states.

At the same time, "some problems remain," said the Foreign Ministry representative. This primarily concerns the lack of procedures to implement the declared principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, especially in the part of its northern provinces where the

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grave humanitarian situation was not caused by Baghdad. Karasin expressed the hope that the remaining problems will be settled at the upcoming contacts of the United Nations secretary-general and Iraqi representatives.

Baghdad is allowed gradual oil exports worth of four billion dollars with the use of half of this sum for humanitarian needs. The rest of oil proceeds will be used to help the Iraqi northern areas, modernize the oil capacities, compensate the damage done by the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait in 1990 and finance the activities of the U.N. special commission for Iraq.

Karasin on Bosnian Attacks on Peacekeepers

LD1804212895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1243 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Valeriy Sevryukov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 April—The fact that attacks on the UN peacekeeping personnel in Sarajevo are becoming more frequent reflects the general deterioration of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and this causes concern on the part of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Information and Press Department of the Foreign Ministry, stated today. Calling on all the sides to observe the conditions of the truce agreement and to refrain from actions provoking escalation of the conflict, we draw their special attention to the need to unconditionally respect the special status of the UN personnel, the diplomat said.

He recalled that on 14 April, the UN Security Council adopted a statement by the chairman, which expresses decisive renunciation of such actions and demands that a proper investigation should be held of the acts, which should not go unpunished. The Russian side fully supports these demands.

Grigoriy Karasin expressed sympathy to the French side and condolences to the near and dear of the two servicemen of the French contingent, who were killed by unidentified snipers in the Bosnian capital a few days ago.

Karasin Suggests Lifting FRY Sanctions

LD1804195695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1802 GMT 18 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 18 (Interfax)—Russia welcomes the initiative by Bulgaria, Greece, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine to support the Bosnia-Herzegovina contact group and make "parallel steps" towards lifting sanctions against Belgrade, an official spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, Grigoriy Karasin, told a briefing in Moscow Tuesday.

Karasin recalled that the five countries' foreign ministers had put forward the initiative at their meeting in Athens on April 14. In their statement, they said they will appeal to the U.N. secretary general and the Security Council on the economic consequences of the international sanctions against Yugoslavia, he added.

"Moscow believes that time has come to positively consider lifting sanctions against Yugoslavia, taking into account that the Yugoslav leadership's constructive course virtually removed the primary reasons for the U.N. Security Council to make the relevant resolutions," Karasin emphasized.

Defense Ministry Refutes Afghan Envoy's Claims on Bombings

LD1804161195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1519 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Sergey Babkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—Combat operations on the Tajik-Afghan border related to the inter-Tajik conflict have spread inside Afghan territory despite the will of the Afghan people and government, Afghan ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Russia 'Abdolvahhab Asefi told a news conference here today.

Speaking to Russian and foreign correspondents at the Russian- American press center, the Afghan ambassador claimed that Russian war planes delivered rocket blows and bombed a number of populated localities in northern Afghanistan on April 9, 10 and 11. According to the ambassador, the raids resulted in up to 120 Afghans killed. As for the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, local sporadic clashes have overgrown into fierce combat operations, he said.

A representative of the Russian Defence Ministry's press center who spoke to ITAR-TASS over the telephone after the news conference refuted the statement of the Afghan ambassador. In his words, "there are no confirmations of Russian involvement in air raids in northern Afghanistan."

The Afghan ambassador stressed that the Afghan Government is striving to keep friendly relations with the Russian Federation and other Commonwealth member-states. Speaking of inter-Tajik conflict, he stressed that the Kabul authorities stand for its peaceful settlement. In his words, the Afghan Government does not have official relations with the Tajik opposition and considers its actions from Afghan territory to be illegal. At the same time, the ambassador admitted that the majority of north Afghan regions where militants of the Tajik irreconcilable opposition are acting are under control of the Kabul government.

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The ambassador called on "parliaments and democratic forces of Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States" for assistance to inter-Tajik settlement. He said that Kabul has made contacts with the Tajik opposition in order to terminate bloodshed.

The news conference coincided with the preliminary consultations between parties to the inter-Tajik conflict. The consultations are being held in Moscow to be followed by the fourth round of inter- Tajik talks. The previous three rounds did not radically change the settlement issue.

Speaking of the situation in Afghanistan and Kabul, Asefi said that troops loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani fully control Kabul. Bearing in mind the grave situation that shaped up in Afghanistan after three years of the domestic conflict, the ambassador called on the international community for humanitarian aid to the Afghan people.

Yeltsin Expresses 'Regret' Over Relations With Ukraine

LD1804135595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1345 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin met on Tuesday with Ukrainian Acting Prime Minister Yevgeniy Marchuk, who is on a working visit to Moscow.

During the talks, Yeltsin voiced regret over the Russian-Ukrainian relations.

The Russian president said: "I will express my great regret that we cannot come to agreement until now. We agreed with Belarus and Kazakhstan, and we cannot agree with the kindred Ukraine with whom we lived friendly for so many centuries. This is especially grievous when one takes into account that the two presidents support the process. I cannot even make an official visit to you because several issues remain unresolved."

Marchuk stressed that the Ukrainian delegation led by him came to Moscow just "to try to resolve these issues."

Ukraine's Marchuk on Differences Over Sevastopol

LD1804163795 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A visit to Moscow by a Ukrainian government delegation headed by Acting Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk started today. Marchuk also met First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets and the Russian president today.

ITAR-TASS reports that the Russian head of state expressed disappointment that Moscow and Kiev were not able to reach any agreement. However, after the talks, Marchuk told journalists that Boris Yeltsin might leave for a visit to Kiev before 9 May. You may recall that one of the main issues discussed by the Ukrainian delegation in Moscow is the problem of the division of the Black Sea Fleet. According to one member of the delegation, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Kuros, one of the main areas of disagreement is the issue of Sevastopol as the Russian fleet's base.

[Begin Kuros recording] It is clear that there will be a Russian base there, but whether or not Sevastopol will be the base is another question, as you may understand. We are discussing the split, the fleet bases for each of us; this should be set out in the agreement. As far as I understand it, we are talking about specific bases, specific harbors, and inland infrastructure rather than about the town of Sevastopol as a whole. The main differences of opinion are about this at the moment. It is difficult to say how the issue will be resolved, but I think that the discussions will be about this. [end recording]

Yeltsin Notes 'Unyielding' Ukrainian Stand on BSF

LD1804170895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1634 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—A report of the presidential press service was circulated here today. The report runs as follows:

"Today, on April 18, Russian President Boris Yeltsin received in Kremlin Acting Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk who had arrived in Moscow with a Ukrainian delegation. The sides exchanged opinion on aspects of bilateral relations and discussed draft political treaty between Russia and Ukraine and agreements on the Black Sea Fleet [BSF].

"Upon the meeting completion Boris Yeltsin said that the Russian side took into account repeated insistent requests of the Ukrainian leadership and can agree with the proposed text of the political treaty in the part of territorial integrity and inviolability of borders. This is a major step to meet the partner halfway, which must receive a worthy estimation, noted the Russian president. Russia 'gives up' nothing in this respect. Wordings in such cases may be different, but the main thing is common sense and goodwill. As for the elaboration of a separate interstate agreement on citizenship, it will be continued.

"However, the sides failed to reach an agreement on the Black Sea Fleet because of the unyielding stand of the Ukrainian delegation headed by Yevhen Marchuk, stressed Yeltsin. He called attention to the Ukrainian deviation from the previous agreements. Russia is adherent to these agreements, and this is a just, objective and morally correct stand, in the opinion of Yeltsin. There will no Russian compromises or concessions in this respect, Russia will not abandon this position [sentence as received]. The new tough variants of the Black Sea Fleet problem solution offered by Kiev do not help to boost the Ukrainian visit of the Russian president.

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"On the same day Marchuk met Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to discuss the fulfilment of agreements on restructuring of the Ukrainian debt to Russia. The Russian side called the Ukrainian attention to the non-payment of current debts to Gazprom for gas deliveries and warned that non-timely fulfilment of payment obligations will render the debt payment delay invalid."

Marchuk Comments on Talks With Yeltsin

LD1804180295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 18 (Interfax)—A treaty on friendship, cooperation and partnership between Russia and Ukraine (the so-called framework treaty—IF note) is virtually ready for signing, Ukraine's acting Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk said in an exclusive interview with Interfax Tuesday.

"The Russian President Boris Yeltsin has removed the main issue impeding the signing of the document," Marchuk said summing up the results of his 40-minute meeting with Yeltsin in the Kremlin earlier this afternoon. He said he referred to setting the border between the two countries.

Marchuk said experts were split over the following phrase: "The sides respect each other's territorial sovereignty and confirm the inviolability of the border existing between them."

A number of experts proposed the word "respect" in both cases, Marchuk recalled. However, Yeltsin decided to preserve the sentence in its original version.

According to Marchuk, his meeting with Yeltsin did not touch on dual citizenship.

"We discussed the Crimean issue just a little. I told Boris Nikolayevich (Yeltsin—IF note) that Crimea will never be an bone of contention between Ukraine and Russia, nor a reason for any disputes, and he supported me in saying this. The circumstances emerged now in Crimea are a temporary phenomenon," Marchuk said.

For his part, Marchuk added that Crimea had a "good and normal social ambience, though the peninsula's economic situation is far from the best." He emphasized that all those wishing to spend their vacations in Crimea "can calmly order tours, everything will be done to ensure calm vacations with water and without cholera."

Asked about the precedent for the framework treaty, Marchuk said "Ukraine was not going to agree with Russia on those formulae which comprise the basis of Russia's treaties with, for example, Belarus and Kazakhstan."

"A treaty, taking into account as much as possible specific features of the two countries' relations, will be signed in Kiev," he remarked.

According to Marchuk, during their "sincere enough and rather constructive" dialogue it was established that the Black Sea Fleet issues had not yet been ultimately resolved. Yeltsin emphasized that the latest talks on the issue were based on the April 1994 Russian-Ukrainian agreement. The agreement provides for dividing the fleet 50-50 between the two countries. Ukraine is to give two-thirds of its share to Russia in the settlement of its debt for Russian fuel.

"This is the formula we are working on. The only question is that it contains too many generic provisions that should be specified proceeding from the two fleets' structures and bases. We have made some progress in this issue which is quite serious, but there is no ultimate decision on the fleet yet," Marchuk said.

According to Marchuk, Yeltsin supported the resolution of the Black Sea Fleet issue on the basis of the April 1994 agreement.

Marchuk: Yeltsin Visit Before 9 May Not Ruled Out

LD1804174795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 18 (Interfax)—Ukraine's acting prime minister Yevhen Marchuk did not rule out the possibility that a state visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Ukraine for signing a comprehensive bilateral treaty will take place before the May 9 Victory celebration.

Marchuk told Interfax that signing the treaty before talks between Yeltsin and western leaders, notably U.S. President Bill Clinton, who are to attend the celebration would be preferable.

Marchuk described his meeting with Yeltsin as fruitful and constructive as far as the entire range of issues is concerned.

According to unconfirmed reports, the meeting was preceded by a short meeting between Yeltsin and Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets who had been in charge of talks with Ukraine.

Officials close to the Russian leadership feel that the probability of a Russian-Ukrainian summit before Victory Day is increasing.

Date of Yeltsin Visit to Ukraine Undecided

LD1904135195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 19 (Interfax)—No decisions on the date of the Ukrainian state visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin have been taken, assistant to the Russian President for foreign affairs Dmitriy Ryurikov told Interfax today.

He denied media reports saying that during the meeting of Yeltsin and acting Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen

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Marchuk they allegedly conceived the possibility of making the Kiev visit before May 9 - celebrations of the 50th V-day.

"This meeting did not discuss the date of the Ukrainian state visit for signing the bilateral fundamental treaty," said the presidential assistant.

Ryurikov noted that the visit should be preceded by an agreement on the Black Sea Fleet. An important condition for settling the date is "stabilization of the Crimean situation," he added.

Duma Official Says Black Sea Fleet Talks at 'Dead End'

LD1804142695 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1200 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the Duma Committee for CIS Affairs, has said the talks on the Black Sea Fleet are at a dead end.

[Begin Zatulin recording] The Ukrainian side regards the Black Sea Fleet as foreign troops on its territory, as a site for division, and as an object which can be used for replenishing Ukraine's coffers. Fifteen types of taxes have been imposed on the fleet. The Russian servicemen are forced to have their salaries converted into coupons and the karbovanets at a deliberately low rate. As a result, one third of the amount remains in the pockets of the intermediaries—Ukrainian commercial banks. This situation cannot continue for long, naturally. Therefore the Duma has adopted laws, and we will now see how the Federation Council and the president respond to the law on a moratorium on the unilateral reduction of the Black Sea Fleet. [end recording]

Kozyrev on Need for Ukraine to Consider Crimea's Rights

LD1804124595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1029 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 18 (INTERFAX)—Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev hopes that the Ukrainian government will settle its relations with the Crimea "taking into account the lawful rights of the peninsula's population and on the basis of respect for OSCE principles." He made this statement at Tuesday's session of the Foreign Policy Council which discussed the situation of Russian speakers in the CIS countries and Baltic states.

As Kozyrev said, "it is important to observe not only Ukraine's legislation, but also the will expressed by the people of the Crimea during the elections and public opinion poll held in March of 1994."

The head of Russian diplomacy described the campaign of "pressure exerted on Russia's consular group in Simferopol" as "regrettable incident." "An intensive and frank exchange of letters" took place in connection with this issue, he said.

"I had a direct conversation on this score with Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko," Kozyrev said. "I think that in the future we shall manage to avoid such incidents and ensure civilized protection for the rights of ethnic Russians."

Nevertheless he stressed: "Though a very complicated situation is in evidence in the Crimea, it is important to remember that there are far more things drawing Russia and Ukraine together than dividing them."

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Political Issues

Yeltsin Inspects Red Square Preparations for 9 May

LD1804173495 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Apr 95

[From the "Segodnya" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] An NTV film crew seem to be the only people today who managed to take these shots. The excellent Moscow weather allowed the president to take a 20-minute stroll on Red Square. Boris Yeltsin inspected the work to prepare the square for the 9 May celebrations. Apparently, everything did not meet the president's approval; at any rate, he made some suggestions.

The president was accompanied on his stroll by Aleksandr Korzhakov, the head of the Security Service of the Russian President; and Mikhail Barsukov, Moscow Kremlin commandant and head of the Main Administration for the Protection of the Russian Federation.

Victory Festivities Yeltsin's 'Chief Concern'

MM1904081795 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "The President Prepares for the Victory Festival But Postpones Resolving Political Problems"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Traditionally, following a vacation or a prolonged seclusion at one of his dachas, President B. Yeltsin would surprise his fellow citizens with yet another plan for decisive or vigorous actions. This time, returning from Sochi, he is not giving out signs of any significant decisions. His aides maintain that Yeltsin's chief concern today is to prepare carefully for the multitude of political events planned to mark the 50th anniversary of victory.

In particular, the president is to hold a meeting with Great Patriotic War veterans and a ceremony to present them with memorial medals, to discuss the order of the festivities with the leaders of the chambers of parliament, and also to analyze the documents which have been prepared for meetings with the heads of state of the United States, the FRG, and possibly certain other countries.

The victory jubilee is undoubtedly an event of great social significance, but the head of state also has to react to burning political problems. For example, the growing complexity of Russian-Ukrainian relations in connection with the Crimea and the continued fighting in Chechnya, despite the military's assurances that combat operations will be over by 20 April. The plan for reforming the Ministry of Defense, which has appeared in the press, citing the president's entourage, will hardly go unnoticed.

Competent sources in the Kremlin have told IZVESTIYA's correspondent that all these problems are in the president's field of vision. But he intends to tackle them after the May festivities. The complications that have arisen in connection with the Crimea require additional consultations—at government level, above all—and in this connection the arrival in Moscow of Ye. Marchuk, acting chairman of the Ukrainian Government, may shed a lot of light. To ensure a calmer political background during the festivities, combat operations will not be conducted in Chechnya.

As for a possible surge of passions over the reforming of the Ministry of Defense, Presidential Aide Yu. Baturin told IZVESTIYA's correspondent that this version does not stand up to criticism. "No way could that information have emanated from my apparatus in the combination [sochetaniye] in which it was presented in the press," he said. "A false direction has plainly been indicated. Of course, we are working on a plan of reform in the Army. But it would be premature to speak of something today as a fait accompli." It was possible to understand from the aide's words that the president will be able to tackle this question only at the beginning of the summer.

Claimed Rigging of 1993 Elections Rejected

MM1804153495 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Dmitriy Babich and Vasiliy Golovin: "In Russia They Counted Votes, Like Chicks, in the Spring. Sensational Exposes by Political Expert Sobyanin Cast Doubt on the 1993 Election Results"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt]

Experts' Conclusions

Comrade Stalin went to the root of the matter when he said: "It is not important how people vote. The chief thing is who counts the votes." This premise of the leader was obviously employed also by the expert group of the well-known political expert Aleksandr Sobyanin, which recently prepared a report with the intriguing title "Secret of the 12 December Elections." The conclusions reached by the commission must elicit a smile and hope in the democrats' camp: "In December 1993 Russia did not vote for Zhirinovskiy. But almost everywhere cowardly and not very popular local chiefs 'voted' for him, wishing at all cost to be elected to the Federation Council."

Sobyanin's group maintains that the election results were falsified so that the number of votes cast for the new "Yeltsin" consitution turned out larger than it actually was. In addition, the voter turnout was also overstated artificially. In Sobyanin's opinion, the federal executive

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needed this in order to consolidate its "dominant position in society" "by means of the speediest adoption of a constitution which suited it." [passage omitted]

Theory of Probability

Voting results for the State Duma elections 12 December 1993 by electoral associations:

	Official data	Sobyanin's data
"Russia's Choice"	40 seats	58 seats
Liberal Democratic Party of Russia	59 seats	36 seats
Communist Party of the Russian Federation	32 seats	28 seats
"Yabloko"	20 seats	23 seats
"Women of Russia"	21 seats	19 seats
Party of Russian Unity and Accord	18 seats	18 seats
Democratic Party of Russia	14 seats	17 seats
Agrarian Party of Russia	21 seats	14 seats
Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms	0 seats	12 seats

The Central Electoral Commission's Opinion

The conclusions of Sobyanin's expert group proved so sensational that even the "Election Campaign-95" conference, held in the Parliamentary Center last week, did not overlook them, completely refuting the "slanderers." We asked Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, to express the official viewpoint on this.

"I have already spoken of this hundreds of times: I make no response at all to such reports. They are always made by the same people, and there are no more than 10 of them in all. If they had serious grounds, they would have long ago gone to court, as is customary in any civilized country, and would not have written captious articles for state money, using for this the president's structures and the State Duma's property.

"We are preparing for the elections openly, and this is perceived and rated positively by society. But what do the Messieurs Sobyanins offer us? They offer us chaos. If the deputy speaks of falsification, he speaks, above all, of himself and of those who sit with him in the hall. It turns out that they all acceded to power as the result of a falsification. But this is absurd. This is required by those who do not want a stable, tranquil, dynamically developing democratic Russia."

FSK Reports on 1994 Operations

954F2044A Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 5 Apr 95 p 7

["Press Release From FSK of Russia Public Relations Center on FSK Activity in 1994"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Whom Does the FSK Take Care Of?

The FSK [Federal Counterintelligence Service] report on its own activity is extremely interesting. In the first place, from the standpoint of the taxpayers, who have a right to know how effectively budget funds are being spent. In the second place, it also has political significance, since the influence of the special services on what is going on in the country is extremely great. First of all, the Chekists have been praised for their successes in the fight against spies. It is interesting that when reporting on the 22 alleged Russian agents in the foreign special services, the FSK modestly states: "The names of the individuals and the countries for whom they were working are not being revealed." Consequently, "because of the agreement among special services," the taxpayers do not have to know specifically which foreign intelligence services are waging hostile activity against Russia (and that is precisely how they always regard the gathering of information through the recruitment of secret service) and who specifically has betrayed the interests of the Motherland. One gets the impression that the FSK is more concerned about the interests of the foreign services.

As for the activity of Mr. Stepashin's department in Chechnya, suffice it to recall that the State Security Department of the Chechen Republic (even before the beginning of all the events) arrested FSK Lieutenant Colonel Stanislav Krylov. Mr. Krylov, without thinking about it for very long, spilled practically everything he knew to Dudayev's men, dealing a blow to both his comrades and to the secret service. The KGB was unable to get their officer released. He was rescued by workers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which is so disliked by the Chekists. The rest of the FSK support for operations in Chechnya was at approximately the same "highly professional" level.

The description of the FSK's fight against organized crime and corruption abounds in details. But when reading the crime chronicle and constantly running up against the mercenary Russian bureaucracy, one might say that this is not a struggle and this is not a result. The taxpayers are not very interested in the fact that 75,000 counterintelligence workers still caught only 18 corrupt officials. The most important thing is how many are left. Incidentally, on the list of confiscated items there are 123 kg of emeralds, which is more than all the rest of the valuables taken together. If there is somebody who does not know, we will report: At the only large Russian emerald mine they also mine uranium ore as the main product. As we understand it, such facilities must be the first to be protected by the FSK from criminal encroachment. SEGODNYA

Last year counterintelligence organs in the Center and the localities were working under difficult operational conditions. According to estimates of FSK analysts, it was getting worse. The growing criminalization of Russian society, which had become a real factor in the threat

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to the constitutional system in the Federation, and the destabilization of the sociopolitical situation contributed to this to no small degree.

Against this background, the subversive intelligence activity of foreign special services presented a serious threat to national security.

An analysis of the information shows that at the center of the intelligence interests of foreign special services are:
- —the strategic plans of the Russian leaders in the sphere of foreign policy;
- —the course of economic and military reforms;
- —the condition and prospects of the currency-financial system;
- —the development of the political situation in the country and individual regions, and interethnic and other social relations.

There is a stable interest in nuclear and other types of modern weapons, developments in the sphere of advanced technologies, and the results of fundamental research. The number of foreign agencies operating in the Russian area has increased. The personnel of a number of foreign service offices in Moscow have not decreased but are showing a tendency to increase, which enables them to actively take advantage of legal possibilities of conducting intelligence work. The possibilities that have opened up for exerting influence at the federal and regional levels for achieving specific political and economic ends are being utilized intensively. In the system of several large economic departments of Russia alone they have discovered about 10 intelligence workers and about 90 specialists and advisers, about whose affiliation with foreign special agencies there is no doubt. More than 100 foreign firms and organizations are being used as covers by special services, including in the banking sphere.

Under these conditions counterintelligence organs have undertaken energetic measures to counteract the work of foreign special services.

Certain Results for 1994

As a result of counterintelligence and operational investigative measures, 22 agents of foreign special services were discovered among Russian citizens (because of the agreement among special services, the names of the individuals and the countries in whose interests the agents were working are not being revealed). Among them, workers of the Ministry of the Defense Industry and a number of other important departments present a special threat.

Criminal charges of betraying the Motherland through espionage and of divulging secret information have been filed against a worker of the Spetsmashinostroyeniye i Metallurgiya joint-stock company and an assistant representative of the Aeroflot joint-stock company in Zimbabwe, who were recruited by foreign special services.

During implementation of measures to protect state secrets, about 60 attempts by Russian citizens to transfer secret materials to citizens of foreign states—some of them to workers of special services—were discovered and stopped. Attempts on the part of foreigners to obtain information contained in data banks of off-limits scientific centers were frustrated. Because of materials of counterintelligence organs, more than 500 accidents were avoided at industrial facilities, 60 of them at nuclear facilities, as were 700 emergency situations on transportation and communications facilities.

Counterintelligence organs participated actively in implementing measures to restore constitutional order in the Chechen Republic. During support operations more than 100 hiding places of illegal armed formations and bases for storing weapons, ammunition, and food for waging the "partisan" war were discovered. Information was obtained on the participation in the conflict by mercenaries from Afghanistan, Ukraine, the countries of Central Asia, the Transcaucasus, and the Baltics. Measures were stepped up for preventing extremist demonstrations.

Six combat operations were conducted (three of them under the Nabat plan) for releasing hostages who had been taken by armed criminals. More than 40 illegal armed formations pursuing political goals were discovered. About 200 recruiters of mercenaries were discovered, of whom 80 were foreigners. More than 1,000 mercenaries were discovered; criminal charges were filed against 31 of them and three were convicted.

In the battle against organized crime, corruption, illegal circulation of weapons and drugs, counterintelligence organs working with internal affairs and procuracy organs neutralized 119 organized criminal groups, including especially dangerous ones that terrorized the population and committed serious crimes. More than 5,000 units of fire arms, large amounts of ammunition, and 42 tonnes of explosives were confiscated from participants in organized crime groups. Based on the data from counterintelligence organs, about 1,000 criminal cases were initiated and more than 400 people were arrested. Workers of the Economic Security Administration during the course of special operations broke up three crime groups that were sending weapons to Russia from the Baltic countries. Smugglers delivering them from Germany through Lithuania to Belarus were arrested. A steady channel for illegal delivery of arms from the United States by sea was discovered and closed off. Taking into account the expansion of the activity of crime formations in the sphere of drug trafficking, counterintelligence organs have put a stop to the activity of drug groups consisting mainly of foreigners. The majority of those arrested were living here illegally.

FSK organs investigated more than 180 groups participating in the drug business and discovered 30 channels of contraband deliveries of drugs. Counterintelligence data were used to file 48 criminal cases, to arrest 158

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people, and confiscate more than three tonnes of various kinds of drugs. Working with customs organs, special services of the United States, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine have successfully conducted 13 operations. As a result of the joint operation with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, one of the leaders of the international drug business was exposed.

Measures were taken to prevent the shipment of rare earth and radioactive substances abroad. Thus the FSK administration for Pskov Oblast arrested a group attempting to sell a container of the radioactive material Uranium-238 weighing 57 kg. They also frustrated an attempt to ship 50 tonnes of ferrous metal worth a total of $60,000.

Data of counterintelligence organs regarding corruption were used to convict 18 representatives of the organs of power and administration, including bureaucrats of the highest level. They discovered and put a stop to the criminal activity of 13 officials in the organs of power and law enforcement organs of Moscow and Moscow Oblast.

During the process of inquiries into criminal cases counterintelligence organs confiscated 211.2 billion rubles [R], $1.274 million, 11.625 million German marks, 123 kg of emeralds, 15 kg of precious stones, 42 kg of gold, 42 gold coins, 136.6 kg of drugs, 402 units of fire arms, 74.4 kg of explosives, more than 25,000 cartridges, 135 grenades, 700 tonnes of raw material resources valued at R3 billion, and other objects and assets worth a total of R11.2268 billion.

Moscow Court Bans Aum Activities in Russia, Blames Media

LD1804130295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1159 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Yuriy Shcherban]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—A Moscow district court on Tuesday banned activities of the Japanese Aum Shinrikyo sect on the Russian territory.

The lawsuit had been filed by a parents' committee, against the Russian branch of the cult and its associated organisation "Aum's Sublime Truth Doctrine". Parents of the sect's members charged that the cult was damaging physical and mental health of their children.

The committee also accused the Russian Mayak Radio Station and the 2x2 television channel of Aum's propaganda by broadcasting the sect's programmes.

The Ostankino Municipal Court ruled that both the Russian branch of the cult and the "Aum Sublime Truth Doctrine" be instantly liquidated, and declared their licenses of legal entities null and void.

The court banned the television and radio broadcasting of the sect's programmes.

The defendants were ordered to pay 20 billion roubles (about four million dollars) to the committee to protect youth from totalitarian religions, and another 3 billion of a state duty.

The Aum Shinrikyo sect is suspected of staging a gas atack on the Tokyo subway on March 20, killing 11 and poisoning several tousand people.

Previously the activities of the two organisations were suspended and their premises arrested.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin instructed the Federal Security service and prosecutor-general's office to investigate into Aum's activities in Russia.

Aum Shinrikyo Moscow Branch Denies Involvement in Gas Attack

LD1904145895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1446 GMT 19 Apr 95

[By Vladimir Solntsev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 19 (ITAR-TASS)— The Russian branch of the Japanese doomsday cult Aum Shinri Kyo and the Moscow religious association Aum Sublime Truth Doctrine denied their involvement in today's attack at Yokohama's main train station, where over 200 people were hospitalised as a result of a new gas attack.

"We officially state that we have nothing to do with this new, apparently terrorist act. We have grounds to believe that most likely these are attempts to foment religious or even political wars," Tatiana Nyrikova, spokeswoman for both organisations, said at a news conference in Moscow on Wednesday.

Aum Shinri Kyo is suspected of involvement in the March 20 nerve gas attack which killed 12 and poisoned 5,500 people. However, the cult denied its involvement either in the March 20 incident or Wednesday's.

"We officially state that since we have spiritual and canonical connections with the Japanese religious corporation Aum Shinri Kyo and since we know that up to date all charges concerning the tragic events in Tokyo were brought against this organisation, we suspect that the new incident will also be ascribed to Aum Shinri Kyo," Nyrikova said.

She warned that the mass media may "start new hysteria and try to track down the so-called Russian trail in these events."

On Tuesday, Moscow's Ostankino municipal court banned the activity of Aum Shinri Kyo and Aum Sublime Truth Doctrine in Russia.

However, Aum Shinri Kyo representatives said they will appeal to a higher court.

The court ruling also annulled the registration of the Russian branch of Aum Shinri Kyo and Aum Sublime

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Truth Doctrine as legal entities and effected liquidation procedures with respect to these organisations.

In addition, it banned the broadcasting of their programmes on television and radio.

"The decision to ban the sect is absolutely correct," Tamara Kushnirskaya, chairwoman of the Committee for Salvation of Youngsters From Totalitarian Sects told, ITAR-TASS. "But the problem is that we will have to find the children." The precise number of lost young people is unknown and may reach hundreds or even thousands.

In his turn, Aum lawyer Vadim Bolmosov told ITAR-TASS that the court was guided by a negative public opinion rather than the Russian laws.

The committee is aware of the fact that the sect will try to appeal against the court decision. "We are getting ready for the next stage," Deputy Committee chairman Aleksy dunts told ITAR-TASS. The committee is planning to form a center for the sect victims and to inform society about the negative consequences of the sect's activities.

Earlier this year Russia suspended the activities of the Aum Shinri Kyo Russian branch and Aum Sublime Truth Doctrine. Their property, including bank accounts, was arrested. The public prosecutor of the Moscow north-eastern district instituted criminal proceedings against the two organizations.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin ordered the Federal Security Service, the prosecutor general's office and the commission for religious associations to investigate Aum's activities in Russia. The commission headed by Sergey Shakhray is expected to hold hearings on the issue later this month.

Attacks on New AIDS Screening Law Seen As Hypocritical

MM1904084895 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Apr 95 p 3

[Commentary by Melor Sturua: "American AIDS Legislation Is No More Liberal than Ours, But the Americans Keep Quiet About It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minnesota—The AIDS law signed by President Yeltsin has produced moans and groans on both sides of Russia's state border. And on both sides the moans and groans are highly politicized. Disregarding the actual point of the law, many local commentators see it as evidence of growing xenophobia, intolerance, nationalism, and reaction in Moscow. Naturally, in the West special attention is focused on the compulsory AIDS-testing of virtually every foreigner living in or visiting Russia if the latter intends to remain more than three months here and does not have the honor to be a diplomat.

It is curious to note two things left unsaid amid all this ritual lamentation. First: For some reason it is tacitly understood that the Yeltsin law should not be applied to visitors from "civilized countries"; while, as far as, say, Africa or Asia is concerned, it is precisely what the doctor orders. Second: It is stressed that Russian legislation in the sphere of AIDS seems draconian compared with the West's.

Indeed, in certain West European countries legislation on this score is considerably more liberal than Russia's. But U.S. legislation here is little different from ours. Foreigners who wish to live permanently in the States have to undergo a compulsory medical examination and AIDS test. If applicants have AIDS, the request for permanent residence is automatically refused.

I can speak about this from firsthand experience. I myself, my wife, and even my young grandson have undergone this procedure. A noteworthy detail: You are not told the results of your analysis at the clinic or outpatient department; they are given to you in a sealed envelope. Any sign of tampering with the envelope invalidates its contents. And you have to go through the whole procedure of testing again. The sealed envelope, together with other documents, is presented to the immigration authorities. And a wait lasting many months and sometimes even a year then ensues. The feeling, I can tell you, is far from pleasant. You feel yourself under long-drawn-out torture by the unknown. And anything could happen, couldn't it?!

Under current legislation the United States reserves the right to deport foreigners suffering from AIDS or HIV. The comment of Mr. Kevin Gardner, an American citizen who heads the Russian Ezop [Aesop] organization for combating AIDS, that the new Russian law will actually harm Russia's efforts to integrate into Western institutions sounds pretty hypocritical in this light.

This "Aesopian" fable is all the more hypocritical because the comparison of the legislation of Europe and Russia is made without regard for the health care situation in Western Europe and our country. The crisis in our health care is such that any outbreak could turn into an epidemic, and any epidemic into a catastrophe. It is pure good fortune that AIDS has not run amok to date. According to the official figures, there are around 800 AIDS- infected people in Russia. But, according to unofficial estimates, we have at least 10 times that many. And yet even this in no way compares with the States, where, according to the government Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of AIDS and HIV patients ranges between 1 and 1.5 million. But the United States has both the medical and financial resources to absorb, as it were, this tragedy. They spend more on AIDS patients here than we do on the whole of our health care. If Russia had the same number of AIDS patients as the United States, we would be in the situation of certain African and Asian states where AIDS has become the source of a national catastrophe.

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Mayor's Adviser on AIDS Assesses Threat

95WE0128A St. Petersburg NEVSKOYE VREMYA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 1

[Interview with Aza Rakhmanova, chief infectious disease expert of the mayor's committee on public health, adviser to the mayor on problems of AIDS, by Alla Borisova, under the rubric "Players": "AIDS—A Threat to National Security"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Borisova] Aza Gasanovna, a new law has been adopted on prevention of AIDS in Russia, in which AIDS is called a threat to the country's national security. How does this law differ from the old one, which caused so much confusion?

[Rakhmanova] We cannot but welcome the fact that the mandatory AIDS testing has been abolished—it will now be replaced by voluntary testing. Only a certain contingent of citizens from risk groups will be subjected to mandatory testing. And, of course, all donor blood and all organs for transplantation will also be subject to testing.

[Borisova] Foreign citizens have spoken out against mandatory testing for AIDS, considering this a human rights violation. They have also noted the economic inexpediency of testing everyone.

[Rakhmanova] According to the law, foreigners must be tested when they enter Russia for more than three months. Unfortunately, we have not yet worked out mechanisms for implementing certain points of the law. For instance, pre-test and post-test consulting with a physician are suggested—our examination points are not ready for this.

[Borisova] And can one really speak about AIDS as a national disaster?

[Rakhmanova] Here are the figures. A total of 17 million people in the world are infected with HIV. In Russia 976,808 blood samples have been tested. As of 1 January 1995 114 citizens were revealed to be HIV-positive in Russia: 72 men, 40 women, and two children. But AIDS is a disease that goes through various stages; since 1977, we have had 26 people with full-blown AIDS, and 12 have died, and on 22 May we, along with the whole world community, will hold a day devoted to the memory of those who have died from AIDS.

[Borisova] As I understand it, HIV is still spreading slowly in Russia: 100 cases a year, and it is mainly men who suffer (two-thirds of whom are homosexuals or bisexuals) and children. A new tendency has been manifested: Children are being born with the virus.

[Rakhmanova] Yes, 19 children in Russia have been born with the infection. One girl was born in St. Petersburg—she is now 13 years old and so far she feels fine.

[Borisova] Do AIDS patients receive sociopsychological assistance?

[Rakhmanova] It is hard to speak of social assistance, but they may receive psychological support where they undergo treatment. As a rule, these patients are very reticent people, who are afraid to admit that they have the disease and frequently refuse help. All this, of course, exacerbates their already difficult position. The girl I mentioned will admit it only to the physician who treats her—nobody else may know about her disease.

[Borisova] Let us remind everyone who wants voluntarily and consciously to give blood for AIDS of how and where this can be done.

[Rakhmanova] There are two special points for anonymous testing: at the AIDS center and in the hospital imeni Botkin (tel. 277-56-71). The analysis can also be done in their own rayon clinic.

Number of HIV, AIDS Cases Increasing

LD1904110695 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0900 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The number of people infected with HIV and AIDS in Russia is increasing progressively. This number increased by 50 percent in 1994 as compared with the previous year. The first case of AIDS was registered in Russia in 1987. There are 154 cases now. One hundred and forty-four people have died as a result of the lethal virus, Aleksandr Tsaregorodtsev, first deputy health minister of the Russian Federation, told a press conference today.

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin Appoints Shakhray To Oversee Passage of Two Laws

MK1804125095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 18 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "President Has Signed a Number of Directives"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Boris Yeltsin has issued a directive on drawing up a draft law "On the Code of Laws of the Russian Federation." It should be passed to the head of state and subsequently submitted to the State Duma. By another directive the president appointed Sergey Shakhray his representative to the Federal Assembly chambers during the consideration of the draft laws "On the Procedure and Principles of Delimiting the Terms of Reference and Powers between the Federal Bodies of State Power and the State Power Bodies of the Russian Federation Components" and "On Extending the Transition Period of Carrying Out the Territorial Rehabilitation of Peoples Subjected to Reprisals."

Yavlinskiy Denies Alliance With Communist Leader Zyuganov

LD1804194095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1647 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 18 (Interfax)—Yabloko faction leader Grigory Yavlinskiy in the

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State Duma (lower house of parliament) strongly dismissed the rumor that he concluded a pact with the Communist leader Gennadiy Zuganov to take concerted action in future presidential elections.

Some sections of the media allege Yavlinskiy and Zuganov agreed that in case either of them wins the first round of presidential elections in 1996, the other candidate will call on his electorate to cast their votes for the rival in the second round.

Yavlinskiy said the rumor was a "political provocation and not a very professional one".

He described it as absurd, saying that he was not a landlord, and his voters were not serfs whom he could tell how to vote.

Yavlinskiy believes that should Zuganov call on his voters to vote for Yabloko's leader, he would lose credibility with the Communists at once.

The fact that Yabloko and the Communists vote in the same way on fundamental issues in the State Duma (for instance, both factions opposed the federal budget for this year) does not mean that they have something in common, Yavlinskiy said.

"We are the democratic opposition and the democratic state system of Russia is our supreme value. We are for private property, competition and so on. The Communists want to alter the political system, restore the Soviets and abolish the presidency", Yabloko leader said.

"However, if there is a similarity in the way the two factions vote in parliament, it is not because Yabloko drifts towards the Communists. On the contrary, the Communists drift towards us".

Duma Panel Head on Implementing Local Autonomy

MM1804152195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Apr 95 First Edition

[Article by Anatoliy Sliva, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Local Self-Government Questions: "The Center and the Regions: Stock of Trust. The Federal Law Must Take Account of National Features and the Regions' Diverse Lifestyle"—from the "Zemstvo" section pp 1,3; first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the request of "Zemstvo" Anatoliy Sliva, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Local Self-Government Questions, comments on the provisions of the federal law on the basic principles for the organization of local self-government in Russia, which is being drafted.

Over the last few months the State Duma Committee for Local Self- Government Questions has received at total of around 200 evaluations and proposals and over 1,000 amendments from the leadership of Federation components, local self-government organs and their associations, federal organs of authority, Federal Assembly deputies, and the scientific community in response to the three official drafts of the federal law on the basic principles of local self-government. What preliminary conclusions can be drawn from them?

First and most importantly, that there are no state and public structures today that openly support the need for profound reform of local self-government in Russia. Everyone realizes with varying degrees of certainty that it is time for the state to repay the debts that have accumulated over the decades to the cities, villages, hamlets, rayons, and settlements, i.e. repay the debts to the population and its representatives in the shape of elective organs.

They have supported the state for decades within the rigid system of state authority, resolving economic and social issues on a daily basis. Therefore the stance espoused by certain federal and regional state organs and officials toward the settlements as expressed by the formula "Live as you please" must be resolutely overturned.

Reform of local self-government is a strategic national task, a matter not only for the president and the government of the Russian Federation and the Federal Assembly but also for all regional and local authorities without exception.

However, reform of local self-government in Russia will only occur when it becomes not only an integral part but the core of all the other reforms being implemented in the country—political, economic, land, judicial, and budgetary-financial reforms. Without real local self-government none of these reforms will be effective nor will the revival of the unified multiethnic Russia and its statehood take place.

Analysis of the views that have been aired indicates that the federal law "On the General Principles for the Organization of Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation" will not be effective if it does not clearly delimit the areas of jurisdiction (powers) of the Russian Federation and Russian Federation components on questions of local self-government. The Tula Oblast Duma, the administrations of Krasnoyarsk Kray, Moscow, Omsk, Samara, Yaroslavl, and other oblasts, the president of the Republic of Adygea, and other representatives of Russian Federation components rightly note this in their comments.

A highly difficult issue in the new law is the question of the territorial basis for local self-government. There are extreme positions: The settlement principle [poselencheskiy printsip] (under the Constitution it ranks in first place) or local self-government solely within the existing structures of administrative-territorial division. I think that both extremes are unacceptable. For such a peculiar country as Russia not only must these two

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approaches be combined in order to shape local self-government but, what is more, the diverse forms in which local self-government is organized on a territorial basis must be recognized in legislation.

Local life is too rich for it to be able to be seen wholly from Moscow or even from an oblast center. It is this conceptual approach that can be discerned in the proposals made by the Stavropol Kray State Duma, the Krasnoyarsk Kray Legislative Assembly, the Vladimir Oblast Legislative Assembly, the Voronezh Oblast Duma ("one territorial organization for all Russia is inadmissible"), both state authorities in Yaroslavl Oblast, the administration of Astrakhan Oblast, the Udmurt Government, and organs of authority in other Federation components. I think that this accords with the spirit and letter of Section 1 of Article 131 of the Russian Federation Constitution.

Bearing in mind the previous experience of organizing local self- government, the representatives of organs of state authority in Astrakhan and Vologda Oblasts, and other Federation components are opposed to the principle of separation of powers being transferred to local self-government level. I consider that this stance is entirely correct and accords with the Russian Federation Constitution. Our smart fellow citizens will grasp how to separate powers and how to ensure cooperation between the elective representative organ and the head of the local self-government entity in a city or other major settlement and will enshrine this without "parliaments" in their local statutes. At the same time attempts to belittle the role of the elective (representative) body run counter to national tradition and the European Local Self-Government Charter.

There will be no local self-government without reform of the judiciary. And it is necessary to couple these reforms together. I think the stance espoused by the Republic of Adygea, the Ivanovo Oblast Legislative Assembly, and other Federation representative components, which are proposing to introduce a judicial institution at the lowest level—settlement level, say, based on prerevolutionary Russian experience, in the form of a justice of the peace—is important. It is also necessary for judges in present- day courts to specialize in proceedings associated with the defense of local self-government rights.

A great deal is being said today about employing the practice and experience of the zemstvo movement in Russia. Undeniably, a great deal should be utilized. But one should not make the same mistakes twice. Once you have studied the archive correspondence between governors or governors-general and zemstvos or correspondence regarding zemstvos you can see what we have to renounce. But there are cases of zemstvos which cry out to be studied in depth and maybe even utilized in a present-day context.

Let me just cite two historical documents which are just begging to be applied today, namely the "Statute on Volost Land Management" adopted in 1917 and the decree of the Provisional Government "On the Establishment of a State Municipal and Land Credit Bank." The bank's board was formed subject to at least half of the board's members coming from the zemstvos and the cities.

It is the general opinion of local self-government representatives that it is time to stop mocking municipal ownership. All the stops were pulled out when it came to dividing up state property by means of privatization—there was a program, laws, edicts, armies of officials in state structures, and dollars. I consider one of the fundamental mistakes made in Russian reform to be the fact that the state has not taken a similar position when it comes to municipal property, which is effectively true people's property.

I am convinced that federal and regional programs are needed to shape and defend municipal ownership. It is necessary to urgently lay down in a federal law the fundamental principles governing this property's status or else certain assiduous officials will write—even in edicts submitted for the president's signature—that "municipal ownership constitutes state ownership." The constitutional idea that Russia is a social state may prove not only a piece of fiction but also have unpredictable consequences unless municipal property is defended and augmented.

The question of municipal land is a separate issue. If a decision is delayed, as has been the case with other real estate, if municipal land is not defended in the Land Code, a highly important and permanent economic foundation of local self-government will be undermined.

Now let me say a separate word about local finances. The State Duma committee is weary of fighting the Ministry of Finance, the government, and even the parliament's budget committees and trying to prove the obvious, namely that, according to the Constitution, local taxes and imposts are a local affair, local self-government organs must be paid out of regional and federal budgets for exercising state powers, the law on budget classification should contain special sections on this score, and local budget autonomy is sacrosanct. What is the upshot? The government, the Ministry of Finance, and the Duma Budget Committee have spent over a year failing to recognize the obvious—that all the relevant provisions of the new constitution are direct-action norms.

These and other important provisions should be reflected in the law under preparation. Coordinating the interests of the center and the regions is an exacting, subtle business. Therefore it was no coincidence that February's all-Russia conference on local self- government problems raised the question of the need to create a special council under the Russian Federation president to coordinate the reform of local authority.

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Conciliation Commission To Review Election Draft Laws

MK1904105095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Indira Dunayeva under the "Draft Law" rubric: "The Conciliation Commission Has Set To Work. Laws on the Election of the President and Deputies Are To Be Discussed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma's and Federation Council's Conciliation Commission began work yesterday. It is to review two electoral draft laws—"On the Election of the Russian Federation President" and "On the Election of State Duma Deputies"—which were turned down last week by the parliament's upper house. Members of the Commission started their work by discussing the presidential election draft. As is known, members of the Federation Council had disagreed with the draft provision saying that if the upper house fails to set the election date in time, this date will be set by the Central Electoral Commission. The present Constitution does not provide for such a delegation of Federation Council rights to anyone. Commission members from the Duma side accepted this senatorial argument, and the draft law will probably specify the election date in case the Federation Council fails to announce it in due time.

Industrial Party Official Outlines Platform

LD1804213195 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The creation of the Russian United Industrial Party was announced today in Moscow. In an interview with the Ekho Moskvy radio station, one of its leaders, Anatoliy Dolgolaptev, listed the main principles in the new political party's platform.

[Begin Dolgolaptev recording] In the economic sphere, we are putting emphasis on national industrial and financial capital. A whole range of measures aimed at protectionism follows on from this—real protectionism—market-based and clever, which envisages not only supporting, but also stimulating development in the economy. These are our main views in the economic sphere.

As for our wider outlook, ours is not a party of radicals. A real, pragmatic, and evolutionary process of changes and at the same time a process which can be very fast is what we are striving to achieve. [end recording]

[Announcer] I would just like to add that Vladimir Shcherbakov, former first deputy head of the government of the Soviet Union, was elected chairman of the Industrial Party.

Regional Affairs

New Oil Spill Concealed on Komi-Nenets Border

LD1904080595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0752 GMT 19 Apr 95

[By Viktor Makarov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Usinsk April 19 (ITAR-TASS)—A new oil spill occurred in the Russian European north and oil bosses again tried to conceal it, like they did with the major leak which polluted the Komi Republic last August and when, according to various estimates, from 14,000 to 100,000 tonnes of oil were spilled.

TASS learned from reliable sources Wednesday that last Thursday, April 13, oil spilled near the Sjatteivis riverlet right on the border between the Komi Republic and the Nenets region.

According to various estimates, from ten to one thousand cubic metres of oil leaked through a hole in a pipeline and polluted 350 hectares of land. According to preliminary information, the accident occurred because of a faulty construction of the pipeline. There were nearly 40 leaks in the Komi area since the major accident last August.

Heads of oil companies "Vozeineft" and "Arkhangelskneftegaz", Valeriy Yevdokimov and Viktor Abrayev, refused to speak to TASS on the accident.

However, their subordinates claimed that the spilled oil had already been collected and the polluted territories cleaned. It is impossible to verify the reports as the accident area can be reached only by helicopter.

Neither of the two regional oil bosses agreed to acknowledge that the pipeline going from the Kharyaginsk oil field belongs to their companies. In February the "Komineft" company, which is responsible for the August spill near Usinsk, decided to hand over the pipeline from "Vozeineft" to "Arkhangelskneftegaz". However, the transfer has not been finally registered and both companies claim the pipeline is not theirs.

In the meantime, Russian Government experts are working in Usinsk for the second day to help avoid serious ecological consequences of the major August spill which was also concealed by "Komineft" and was made public only thanks to U.S. media reports. The experts' main task is to keep the spilled oil from getting into local rivers together with melting snow. Special attention is paid to the Pechora river which flows into the Arctic Ocean and can cause serious ecological damage to the fragile northern nature in case oil gets into it.

Shakhray Favors Migration of Russians to Siberia

LD1804181095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1427 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Viktor Yelmakov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Novosibirsk, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—Millions of Russians from former Soviet republics of Transcaucasia and Central Asia should migrate to southern parts of Siberia and Russian far east, Russian Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray told a news conference on Tuesday.

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Shakhray cited scientific data saying that Siberia's population might diminish from 33 to 20 million people in the near future, if an inflow of 6-8 million people is not provided by 2100.

Shakhray said that the state programme of the "great migration to Siberia" shall be adopted to attract migrants granting them economic stimuli, new jobs, as well as tax, transportation and other privileges.

"If we want to preserve Russia, a programme of the great migration (to Siberia) must be adopted", Shakhray said.

New settlers should also include families of migrants from the north of the country, who so far prefer to go to the central Russia, the vice-premier said, noting that mineral resourses of the north should be developed mainly by limited-term contract workers.

Reportage, Commentary on Situation in Chechnya

58th Army To Be Based Near Groznyy Airport

LD1604165995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 1500 GMT on 16 April during the "Segodnya" program carries a report by Correspondent Ali Yusupov on restoration work at Groznyy airport. He says that north Groznyy airport is the first site where Russian troops have carried out restoration work. They have turned the airport from a collection of half-destroyed buildings with no light or water into "a more or less well-equipped military base." Although the airport used to be civilian, the military is to remain here once the war is over, Yusupov reports. A plan has been drawn up for a barracks to be built near the airport to house the 58th Army.

At the personal request of Salambek Khadzhiyev, head of the Chechen Government of National Revival, the Russian military is to restore government house. This is the only civilian site that the military will restore, Yusupov reports. Video shows the airport with Russian troops and hardware, troops carrying out restoration work, and a meeting between Chechens and Russian troops.

Paper Probes Alleged Death of Dudayev

MK1804122095 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 18 Apr 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Aleksandr Khinshteyn: "The Death of 'Uncatchable Joe.' Dudayev Rather Dead than Alive?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For a long time now Dzhokhar Dudayev, wanted throughout Russia, has been overshadowed by a terrible mystery. FSK, MVD, and Defense Ministry officers, and simply decent law-abiding citizens are trying as hard as they can to trace "uncatchable Joe," but all their attempts have been in vain. Dudayev seems to have vanished into thin air.

Given that, an unofficial statement made by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev last week that "Dudayev is rather dead than alive" came more than opportunely. For the death of a pariah general would rebut at one stroke all malicious speculation about the Russian power ministers' lack of professionalism.

But is this really so? MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned certain details concerning the report that enabled Grachev to make this statement. According to reliable sources, at the beginning of last week Russian special services received a report from their Chechen informers indicating that Dudayev is dead. It was asserted, in particular, that a bomb exploded outside a car in which Dudayev was sitting together with his three bodyguards in the area of the Staryy Achkhoy village on one of the last 10 days of March. Dzhokhar Musayevich was allegedly killed by splinters from the bomb.

The same sources reported that from that time on Dudayev stopped attending traditional meetings of field commanders or addressing the public. Moreover, Russian eavesdroppers could not intercept the general's radio conversations a single time (something they had hitherto done on a regular basis).

The FSK, MVD, and Defense Ministry leadership became even more convinced of Dudayev's passing when it turned out that a video tape of a meeting addressed by Dudayev, which was shown on the "Utro" television program, had been shot in early March. According to certain representatives of these structures, the president's inner circle would best conceal his death so as to "keep the radiant image of a new Shamil [leader of an anti-Russian Chechen uprising in the 19th century] as a symbol of the Chechen people's liberation struggle."

They point out the emergence of a whole range of old tapes featuring Dudayev and numerous "interviews" for the central press, whereas it is evident that few journalists (if any) would have a chance to meet with Dudayev personally. If this could actually happen, however, criminal action may well be brought against the interviewers "for failure to report."

Naturally, any conclusions against this background would be fairly premature. Indirect evidence provided by agents does not make for sufficient proof at all. It cannot be ruled out either that by so doing the power ministers are trying to use this propaganda move in order to break the patriotism of the proud people of Ichkeriya. It wouldn't be amiss to recall that in 1943, when the German intelligence service prepared an attempt on Stalin's life in Tehran, Schellenberg [German foreign intelligence service chief] was fully convinced that the Soviet leader's death would definitely result in the USSR's defeat. And even if Dudayev has a long way to go to be on a par with Stalin, domestic Schellenbergs are certainly not at all dumber than their foreign counterparts.

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Chechens Surrender Arms on Dagestan Border

LD1804132895 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to our correspondent, surrender of arms has begun in Chechen villages on the border with Dagestan.

Two armored carriers, taken from a military unit at the start of the conflict, have been delivered at the (Gildiyskiy) checkpoint.

Guns and sawn-off guns have also been returned. An exchange of soldiers who had been taken prisoners also of those detained for illegal possession of arms has also begun, in keeping with an agreement with the administration and the mufti of the Chechen villages.

Missing Servicemen Found

LD1804193795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 18 (Interfax)—Over 80 Russian servicemen who were reported missing in Chechnya have been found, deputy chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, Colonel-General Vyacheslav Zherebtsov, told Interfax Tuesday [18 April].

He said that some of the servicemen had been released from captivity while others had left their units and were found at their homes.

Since Russian troops entered Chechnya on December 11, 1994, around 300 servicemen have been reported missing.

Zherebtsov said the Defense Ministry had started a planned withdrawal from Chechnya of units which fought the Dudayev militants. He said that "from now on, contract servicemen will form the basis of infantry units, which will continue to stay in the republic."

The general said that the servicemen in Chechnya, whose term of service expires in spring, will be demobilized as scheduled, in line with the decision of the defense minister. Zherebtsov said that the soldiers and sergeants conscripted in spring 1995 will not be sent to Chechnya or other trouble spots.

Finance Ministry Grants R590 Billion for Repairs

LD1804202395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1638 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Ministry of Finance will "allocate 590 billion rubles [R] for restorations in Chechnya", First Deputy Minister of Finance Vladimir Petrov told a regular meeting of the State Commission for Restoration of Chechen Economy here today.

In his words, the financing will be done with budget allocations through authorized commercial banks and benefits. Ten agreements to the effect have been signed.

Dudayev Forces Resuming 'Active Combat Operations'

LD1904110095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0959 GMT 19 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 19 Apr—The Dudayev formations "are resuming active combat operations both in the mountainous and plain regions," field commander Shamil Basayev said. He spoke last night on the so-called "Dudayev Television Channel" transmitted from a mobile installation. According to Basayev, "on the basis of the voluntary detachment that has been in operation for all these months, a Chechen regular army with all the necessary structures is being formed, while the bases for its deployment have already been set up in the mountains."

The Dudayev commander said that "from now on the defense forces of Chechnya will not be stationed in population centers to avoid the threat of missile strikes and bombings hitting civilians. The commanders of the fighters, Shamil Basayev said, have been ordered to take positions at least 1 km away from any population center."

In Vedenskiy district in Chechnya, where the Dudayev armed forces are now being amassed, the sharia court has begun operating.

According to the decision by local religious authorities and elders, this body will be used to try crimes such as consumption of alcohol banned here, petty thefts, and property disputes. Eight people have already been punished—canes were used to thrash the feet of criminals. This sort of judicial body is being set up because at present there are no functioning bodies of justice.

Commander on Plans To Seal Off Mountains

LD1804201695 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 18 Apr 95

[Video report by A. Sladkov, including recorded remarks by Lieutenant General P. Rovinskiy, deputy commander of the Russian Interior Ministry troops; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Sladkov] According to the information of the joint command, more than two thirds of Chechen territory are controlled by federal forces today. Internal troops have taken over from the Army the main role in taking villages.

[Rovinskiy] Internal troops and OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] forces would approach populated areas, they would hold talks with the purpose of persuading the residents. On the plains the majority of

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residents already understand that authority should be established. In individual villages they are already handing in weapons voluntarily.

[Sladkov] The negotiating process has taken the most successful shape in the Chechen flat country. Each commander tries to engage the local administration in dialogue in his zone of responsibility. The troops are experiencing the greatest difficulties in Bamut and the Chechen mountains adjacent to Dagestan. Not homeguard detachments but rather Dudayev's well- trained combat groups are deployed there.

[Rovinskiy] The irreconcilables are likely to leave for the mountains and we will have, naturally, to seal off these mountains and then to think of the ways to carry out special actions in order to enforce law and order there.

Chechen Refugees to Dagestan Increasing

LD1804202895 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Dagestan's Committee for Emergencies, the flow of refugees from Chechnya into Dagestan has considerably grown. At present, 3,000 people arrive there daily while only 20 return to Chechnya. Chechen residents are mainly fleeing the zone of fighting.

Preliminary estimates show that there are about 130,000 refugees in Dagestan today.

Militants Return To Stage Acts of Subversion

LD1804125995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1205 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—Some 200 hitmen from the Chechen unlawfully armed groups have returned to Groznyy as refugees to stage acts of terror and subversion in the Chechen capital, Deputy Director of the Federal Security Service Major-General Nikolay Kovalev told ITAR-TASS in Mozdok today, citing the service's operational sources in the rebel republic.

He said the Federal Security Service department for the Chechen republic and other law enforcement structures are taking additional measures to suppress subversive activities of the unlawfully armed groups both in Groznyy and other parts of the republic.

One indication of the increased subversive activity of the unlawfully armed groups is the growing number of mine explosions aiming to destroy armoured vehicles and of shooting at military commandment offices in Groznyy over the past few days.

An armoured vehicle of the Federal Interior Troops hit a mine near the village of Asinovskaya on the border with the Ingush Republic on Tuesday. The explosion killed two and injured five men, Nikolay Kovalev said.

More on Refugees Return to Groznyy

LD1804165095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1422 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—The following report of the Russian Government press service was circulated here today:

"According to a report of the mobile information center, the return of refugees to Groznyy is mounting. According to information of the mayor's office, over 230,000 people have come to the town to live. Restorations are underway, and water, electricity and food supply is being resumed. Some 50 tonnes of bread are being baked or delivered to Groznyy every day.

"A total of ten bus routes are functioning, 93 kilometers of power lines have been restored, 20 post offices and 20 secondary schools are open.

"The spring sowing campaign is underway. Crops have been sown on 32 per cent of the arable lands.

"The pension debt worth of 10.4 billion rubles has been paid off."

Duma Official—Samashki Casualties 'Overstated'

LD1804155195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1250 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 18 (Interfax)—Information about destruction and numerous casualties among the civilian population in the Chechen village of Samashki, which is being spread in Moscow by the Memorial society, are overstated. This statement was made in an interview with Interfax on Tuesday by the chairman of the Duma commission for investigating the circumstances which led up to the crisis in the Chechen Republic, Stanislav Govorukhin. He returned recently from Samashki together with other commission members.

Last week lower house deputies, including Alla Amelina (Russia's Choice faction) and Aleksandra Achirova (New Regional Policy group), demanded that details be supplied on the seizing of the village by Russian troops along with information on the number of casualties.

Govorukhin believes that destruction was caused by hand-to-hand combat, rather than by artillery or aviation. He refused to assess the total number of casualties following the military operation, but the number of casualties among the civilian population, he said, total around 30 people.

On Wednesday, Govorukhin intends to hold a news conference on the results of his trip to Chechnya.

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Further on Bombing Raid on Ingush Village

LD1804185195 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Russian aircraft today carried out missile and bombing strikes against the Ingush village of Arshty, which is located several kilometers from the border with Chechnya. Musarbek Khartsiyev, head of the village's administration, gave us details of the raid.

[Begin Khartsiyev recording] At about 1145 [word indistinct] Russian Su-27 aircraft flew over. They fired 16 missiles and dropped two bombs. As a result three people were killed and seven were wounded. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Deputy Commander Denies Bombing Ingush Village

LD1904090295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0806 GMT 19 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mozdok, 19 Apr—"There was no bombing or shelling of the Ingush settlement of Arshty on Tuesday during the operation to push illegal armed formations out of the settlement of Bamut," Lieutenant General Vladimir Chilindin, first deputy commander of the combined troops in Chechnya, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

The Ingush village of Arshty is situated several kilometers southwest of Bamut in Chechnya. The northern parts of Bamut were occupied by subunits of the federal troops by the end of the day on 18 April. Over the past day local concentrations of illegal armed groups on the outskirts of Bamut have been shelled and bombed by front-line aviation.

At midday Moscow time today, ITAR-TASS did not have official information about developments in Bamut.

Representatives of the temporary human rights monitoring commission flew from Mozdok to Samashki this morning. Sergey Kovalev, State Duma deputy and well-known human rights activist, was among them.

The previous day, ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maysigov, who was in Arshty (Ingushetia's Sunzhenskiy district), witnessed air strikes on this settlement. Two Russian aircraft swooped over the settlement and bombed the outskirts, he said. Three women died as a result of the strike. They were sisters Lena and Mareta Khatsiyeva and 68-year old Kamali Tatarova.

Ingush President Protests Village Bombing

LD1904085695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0842 GMT 19 Apr 95

[By Ruslan Maysigov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran April 19 (ITAR-TASS)—Ingushi President Ruslan Aushev protested to Russian leaders Wednesday over the bombing by Russian aircraft of an Ingushi village which killed three and wounded seven people and warned he would appeal to the international community if the air raids continue.

On Tuesday two Russian combat aircraft bombed the Ingushi village of Arshty situated several kilometres away from the Chechen town of Bamut which is the last Chechen bastion besieged by federal troops.

The three victims are sisters Lena and Mareta Khatsiyev and 68- year old Kamali Tatarova.

In a message to the Russian president, the prime minister and the prosecutor general Aushev qualified the bombing as "criminal" and demanded that the tragedy be investigated and those responsible punished.

According to the Ingushi leader, this was not the first strike at the village in the four months of the military operation in neighbouring Chechnya. 10 people were killed in the air raids, he said.

"In case such criminal activities are repeated I reserve the right to appeal to the world community", Aushev said.

The press service of the Russian Air Force told TASS Wednesday that it has no information about the raid.

Head of the Arshty administration Mukharbek Khatsiyev told TASS that over 4,000 Chechen refugees had found shelter in the settlement and many of them were fleeing it after the air raid. Russian Red Cross officials are working in the village and rendering relief to the refugees.

Source: 100 Russian Soldiers Killed in Bamut

LD1804124995 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1200 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian military sources have not yet confirmed last night's attack in Bamut. Meanwhile, according to a report by the headquarters of the Chechen armed forces, the federal troops were forced to retreat after last night's offensive to their original positions, having lost up to 100 men dead and several armored vehicles.

Federal Troops Continue Shelling Bamut

LD1804133495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1310 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, North Ossetia, April 18 ITAR- TASS— The situation around the Chechen populated locality of Bamut remains complicated, reports the federal troops headquarters.

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The federal troops went on reconnaissance in force in the Bamut area on Monday. The servicemen were put under fierce fire from heights around the settlement. The federal artillery and aviation stroke back on the militants. "Civilians have left Bamut, and there are almost no militants there. The militants have moved to the heights on Bamut perimeter," deputy director of the Federal Security Service Nikolay Kovalev told ITAR-TASS.

The artillery and aviation shelling of the Bamut vicinity goes on, according to military sources.

A group of militants with a strength of some 400 men was destroyed on Sunday night not far from a militant base in the Vedeno settlement, sources at the Federal Security Service told ITAR-TASS. The group was trying to break through by trucks to render support to the illegal armed units in the Bamut zone.

Commenting on the general situation in Chechnya, Kovalev said "the illegal armed units are lacking the single command. They are incapable of active combat operations." At the same time, one should expected more frequent acts of sabotage. The illegal armed units are lacking armaments, ammunition, lubricants, combustibles and have almost no heavy armaments. The groups are acting on their own. Their overall strength is some 5,000. There is information about 200 mercenaries staying in the area of Vedeno. The majority of them come from Afghanistan.

Interior Troops Seize Northern Part of Bamut

LD1804184595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1830 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian interior troopers seized the northern part of the Chechen populated locality of Bamut tonight, sources at the press center of the Russian federal troops told ITAR-TASS.

According to the press center, the operation entailed almost no civilian casualties.

Military sources told ITAR-TASS about several fires in the northern part of Bamut. The federal artillery and aviation shelled the militants' positions in the Bamut vicinity all day long.

The sources report an armed clash between federal troopers and militants in the area of Serzhen Yurt ten kilometers south-east of Shali. Over 20 militants were killed, Russian servicemen have losses as well.

A unit of militants tried to attack federal positions from the mountains. Interior troopers continue to confiscate arms and ammunition in the populated localities of the Shali and Gudermes regions. Today they reached the line of Komsomolskoye, Gudermes, Suvorov Yurt, Bachi Yurt and Mairtup.

The final mission of the interior troopers moving towards the Chechen east is to reach the administrative border of Dagestan.

Bamut Under Siege

LD1804202295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 1800 GMT on 18 April carries a 4-minute Correspondent Alim Yusupov report on the "Segodnya" program on the Russian operation to take the village of Bamut. Only the approaches to Bamut have come under fire so far, not the village itself, Yusupov reports. He speaks to a Russian soldier, who says: "Nothing at all is destroyed there. Things are the same as they were before we came here. We are firing on green spots where fighters might arrive from the direction of Ingushetia." Yusupov explains that "green spots" is a military term for areas where, according to intelligence reports, fighters have fortified positions.

Yusupov reports that Interior Ministry Lieutenant General Anatoliy Antonov, commander of the operation, has said Bamut could have been taken at the first attempt last week but he was stopped by elders from Achkhoy-Martan, who promised to persuade the village's residents to lay down their arms.

According to Colonel General Yegorov, commander of the joint forces in Chechnya, the federal forces are in full control of Bamut, Yusupov says. He then interviews an unidentified officer—possibly Yegorov—at a command post. The officer says: "At present, approximately 1,000 fighters are opposing us. They are well-organized, they have reinforcements, quite good ones, one might say that they fight 'literately.' You have to speak the truth about your opponents."

The Russian forces think the Chechens in Bamut have the ammunition and food supplies to hold out for a long time unless decisive action is taken, Yusupov reports. A Russian soldier tells the cameras: "We'll get nowhere here." He adds: "Even if you bomb them, they'll never come out of there. Everything needs to be burned, then they'll be destroyed."

The commanders regularly meet village elders and some seem prepared to surrender their arms, Yusupov reports, noting, however, that everyone needs to be prepared to surrender.

The camera returns to the interview with the Russian officer, who states: "The second stage is beginning now. Everything will become clear in a week." Yusupov asks the officer if he rules out the use of artillery. The latter replies: "I do not rule it out. I do not rule out any means to protect personnel." He declined to say how soon the second stage would begin.

The video shows Russian aircraft firing on unidentified targets, Russian troops' command positions, and troops and military hardware.

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Kulikov Announces Capture of Bamut

LD1904112995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1112 GMT 19 Apr 95

[By Nadezhda Chaykova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 19 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian troops captured the last Chechen bastion in the western lowlands of the rebel republic, deputy interior minister, Colonel General Anatoliy Kulikov told a press conference Wednesday.

He said that the fighting was "fierce" for the former Soviet missile base where Chechen militants were firing from nuclear-proof bunkers. However, they retreated and fled Bamut in the face of overwhelming Russian force.

Now the Russian troops have to establish control over the settlement of Vedeno in the east of the rebel republic.

Kulikov, who was in command of the Russian troops when they seized the village of Samashki, denied reports about atrocities of his soldiers against the civilian population of the village.

"Not a single unauthorised shot was fired", he said, adding that reports about Russian atrocities in the village "are groundless".

Economic Issues

All Restrictions Lifted on Japan's Credit to Russia

LD1304174295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1620 GMT 13 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—"All formal restrictions have been lifted between Russia and Japan's Export and Import Bank with respect to a 400-mln-dollar credit to be extended by Japan", according to Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets. At the moment, the two sides are negotiating the possibility of boosting investments as part of Japan's humanitarian credit, he specified.

Receiving on Thursday [13 April] Japanese Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade and Industry Yoshiro Sakamoto [name as received], the first vice- premier noted that Russia "welcomes the establishment by Japan of a special 50-mln-dollar fund, which is to finance the development of small and medium-sized business in Russia's Far East and eastern Siberia".

Among the most promising forms of bilateral cooperation, Soskovets cited creation of fuel-producing joint ventures in the Far East. He believes Japan could use its own mining equipment and receive fixed coal supplies in return. The first deputy prime minister also invited Japan to take "part in the conversion of Russian defence-related enterprises in the Far East".

According to Soskovets, on March 16 the Russian Government "defined a financial scheme and technical conditions for the repayment of Russia's debt to Japan". To oversee this process, Japan should choose a single coordinator from among state-run agencies, the first vice-premier noted.

Russian-Chinese Trade Set To Grow This Year

LD1604104095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0245 GMT 16 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Romanov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beijing, 16 Apr—The volume of trade between Russia and China this year is due to increase by 20 percent compared with 1994 and will reach $6 billion, experts calculate. Aleksandr Kachanov, the Russian Federation's trade representative in China, believes that this tendency toward growth again prevails in bilateral trade. [passage omitted]

According to official data released today by the PRC customs office, Russian-Chinese trade last year went down by 30 percent and amounted to $5.1 billion. Specialists believe that the slump may be explained to some extent by the growing need to adjust bilateral trade and economic ties to the transition to relations on a new foundation. Other reasons for the reduction in trade volume are a certain saturation of imports on the Russian market and the increased costs of exports. [passage omitted]

IMF Grants Loan, But Lacks 'Absolute Faith'

MM1904090295 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Apr 95 p 2

[Article by Mikhail Berger: "The Eternal Values of the Economy Expressed in Monetary Terms"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IMF Board of Directors has decided to grant Russia the so-called reserve credit which Russia has been seeking for more than two years now.

The granting of standard reserve credit is something akin to a notary's seal: "The government's economic program corresponds on the whole to the IMF's standard requirements, while the authorities' practice is relatively close to the 'original,' that is, their own plans."

Naturally, the IMF had its hesitations and doubts: Would parliament endorse the budget submitted by the government, and is the cabinet capable of sticking to its firm financial policy? The "Chechen factor" also played a part, although no one at the IMF said this aloud. But even someone distant from state finances could infer that the Russian Government would be forced to spend budget money on military operations in Chechnya. The credit, however, as officially stated, will be used to cover

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the budget deficit. A link between the one and the other could only cause embarrassment.

The fact that the program linked to the credit began 1 January this year, while the money is only coming now is indicative of the IMF's hesitation. But it is, nevertheless, now coming.

Article 1 of the IMF's Articles of Agreement says that its purpose is to promote international monetary cooperation and facilitate the growth of international trade in order to maintain high levels of employment and real income. In short, the eternal economic values. And the granting of reserve credit to Russia is in a certain sense confirmation that our country not only "approves and supports" the IMF's Articles of Agreement (incorporating a total of 31 long articles) in principle, but is also capable of taking its cue from those values in practice.

It should be noted that the IMF does not have absolute faith in Russia, as it were, reserving the right to suspend the credit at any time. Under the agreement, "faith" in the form of money will be doled out to us in fixed monthly amounts.

The monetary expression of the IMF's faith in the government's actions is known: $6.6 billion (different figures crop up in different sources because the rate of exchange of the special drawing rights—the IMF's conventional unit of money—against the dollar changes). The amount of the reserve credit is determined by Russia's IMF capital quota. It stands at 4,313 million special drawing rights.

The credit terms may be regarded as soft: 7 percent per year, with repayment to the creditor starting in three years' time. Russia is simply unable to obtain such terms in the financial market. The period of the credit (that is, the issuing of the credit) runs until April 1996.

If we do not take up the funds assigned us we shall have to pay the IMF a commission (a facility fee) of 0.25 percent. I would venture to suggest that it is scarcely worth the IMF's while to bank on those kinds of payments coming in from us. Although, on the other hand, anything could happen. The World Bank, for example, allocated Russia a total of more than $3 billion. However, we are not taking up all the credit granted us by the bank within the stipulated period, for which we paid the bank $4 million in the form of a fine last year alone. The money involved is not, of course, a fantastic sum, but it is not surplus to requirements either.

Where will the money received be channeled? There is nothing fundamentally new here. As proposed in the budget for this current year, the IMF credit will be used to cover the budget deficit. This was confirmed to IZVESTIYA once again by Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin.

The government hopes by means of the credit to implement the budget and achieve stabilization.

On the other hand, however, even the softest loans have to be repaid. Russia cannot expect the international financial community to write off its debts in the way that Russia itself "pardons" its loss-making kolkhozes. It is at least somewhat unseemly to aspire to such while seeking to become the eighth member of the G-7.

Some believe, especially deputies and a large number of politicians and experts, that Russia should not increase its external debt burden and that it is capable of coping with its economic problems by other means. The government is convinced of the reverse. The ticklishness of this dispute resides in the fact that in any event it will be another government but the selfsame population that repays this (possibly very necessary and timely) credit.

Panskov: Ukraine Begins Servicing Debt to Russia

LD1304163395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1338 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 13 (Interfax)—In an interview with Interfax in Moscow Thursday [13 April] Russia's Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov reported that Ukraine has transferred $50 million to Russia towards its debt.

Panskov explained that the recently-concluded agreement on restructuring Ukraine's debt to Russia was the decisive element for Kiev to begin servicing its debt to Moscow for real. "If there were no such agreement, neither Ukraine, nor Russia would have received the stand-by credits from the International Monetary Fund," Panskov underlined.

At the same time he did not rule out that servicing of Ukraine's debts is linked with receiving the IMF credit and Ukraine, probably, partly uses these funds for debt repayment.

Sources in the Finance Ministry told Interfax that Kiev pledged to pay off $600 million to Russia before the end of this year.

Shakhray Addresses Economic Stabilization Conference

LD1804132695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1303 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Viktor Yelmakov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Novosibirsk April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—Territories, regions and republics are beginning to overtake the federal centre in comprehending the processes taking place in Russia, Sergey Shakhray said today. The deputy prime minister of the Russian Government spoke today at a scientific and practical conference on problems of economic stabilisation in provinces, held in Novosibirsk. In his opinion, a strong state will be created in Russia from below. He stressed that the creation of a strong Russia is not equivalent to the strengthening of the "Moscow principality". It is going

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to be the unification of Russian lands from below, which will enhance Moscow's role as a capital.

One can regard regional elites and regional self-government in various ways, Shakhray continued. However, more and more examples show that it is the regions, which are becoming true bearers of russia's statehood. The demands of the regions to set things in order in the centre, to set priorities and make plans more clear are becoming characteristic features of the current situation, he said. The experience of independent work in very difficult conditions helps the regions to be ahead of the center in comprehending the overall situation.

Media Briefed on 1995 Privatization Program

MM1704111695 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Igor Karpenko: "Shares in More Than 7,000 Russian Enterprises To Be Auctioned Off and Traded in 1995"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Committee for the Management of State Property [GKI] has published lists of 7,186 enterprises whose state shares are to be sold at monetary auctions this year. At a 13 April press conference devoted to the official publication of this impressive list GKI Chairman Sergey Belyayev and Vladimir Sokolov, chairman of the Russian Federal Property Fund, told journalists about the features of the monetary phase of privatization and the ways in which organizations and citizens can take part—including possible GKI trust management of a consortium of banks and other corporate bodies [vozmozhnyy trastovoye vladeniye Goskomimushchestva konsortsiumom bankov i drugimi...].

But even this is by no means a full list—it does not include enterprises whose sale ban will be lifted in 1995, holding companies, or enterprises whose shares will be sold at federal level. These documents and certain new normative acts governing the monetary stage of privatization are currently being discussed by the government.

Basic 1996 Federal Budget Parameters Analyzed

MK1904104095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 19 Apr 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Vladislav Borodulin: "The Government Wants To Start 1996 With a Budget"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Once again the distinguishing feature of the budgetary process Russian-style is in evidence: its chronic lagging. This is evidenced by the publication of a government resolution giving the official go-ahead to the preparation of a federal budget for 1996. The government part of this process should be completed by 20 July, after which the budget will be presented to the State Duma. It can be assumed that this year the government will seek to do everything possible and impossible to complete the 1996 budgetary process before this year is out: The experience of work with the current intransigent but manageable parliament will be absolutely useless in dealing with the next one.

In fact, this form for officially beginning the budgetary process—a government resolution setting tasks for various departments on what to do and when—is becoming traditional for Russia and is replacing the law on budget organization adopted back in 1992. An analogous resolution last year appeared a little later: in July 1994. Of course, any appeals to this law, considering that this year's budget was adopted only a few days ago, look very naive. But it is appropriate to recall that under this law, now, in April, the draft federal budget for next year is to be fully ready, and parliament should already be discussing it.

Instead a government resolution has appeared. Under it, the government is to complete its part of the work in mid-summer. By 20 July the Finance Ministry and the Economy Ministry are to submit the draft to the government and after a formal discussion at a government session it will be sent to the State Duma.

Thus, approximately in early August the next, parliamentary, phase of budget formulation is to begin. Judging by Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov's statements, made on the wave of euphoria after the 1995 budget was adopted, the government will insist that the current Federal Assembly adopt the 1996 budget as well. In principle there is some logic in this wish: The government already has the experience of working with the incumbent deputies, while a timely (i.e., before the beginning of a fiscal year) adoption of the budget probably serves as the best indicator, in the eyes of Western creditors, of the authorities' stable and well considered economic policy.

True, such intentions by the government are not particularly original: They were also expressed last year. They were expressed even in spite of the fact that the government itself did not approve the budget until October, that is to say, one and a half months behind schedule. All illusions by the executive branch were dispelled after the State Duma adopted a law defining procedures for its consideration of the budget: The four-stage procedure completely precluded even the theoretical possibility of the first budget in the history of a post-Soviet Russia being adopted before the New Year.

How successful will the second attempt be? Today nobody can answer this question. If the perennial inaccessibility of Finance Ministry Budget Department officers is any indication, however, work on the budget is in full swing. The most difficult part of the work is presumably taking into account budgetary demands from the branch ministries and the regions. That sums being asked exceed actual revenues is not a distinguishing feature of the Russian financial system: The finance ministry of any country has to trim original demands. Russia's peculiarity is only the scale of this

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diversity: 1995 budget requests constituted approximately 90 percent of GDP (in the end, federal budget expenditures were approved at approximately 21 percent of GDP).

This year the task of hammering out a budget with an acceptable deficit will be even more complicated. The government assures that next year it will abandon the practice of attracting Western credits as a means of financing its spending. It will be recalled that in 1995 more than half the federal budget deficit is to be covered with outside loans.

The government's confidence that the deficit will be kept within 4-5 percent is based on the assumption that next year tax revenues will be raised to 15.5-16 percent of GDP from the current 14.5 percent (spending levels will not change). It is planned to achieve this both by taking "organizational-technical" measures and by reviving business activity. At least, the program "Reforms and the Development of the Russian Economy in 1995-1997," officially adopted by the government, presupposes that a small (within 1 percent) growth of GDP, and therefore of tax revenues, is theoretically possible. To what extent the estimates made last fall prove to be correct will be clear after the Economy Ministry finalizes the socioeconomic development forecast. So far they are as follows: GDP at 96-101 percent of the 1995 level; industrial and agricultural production, 99-100 percent and 96-100 percent correspondingly; and inflation, 1-2 percent a month.

Central Bank Law Delayed To Defer Paramonova Row

MK1804123095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 18 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Leonid Brodskiy: "Struggle for Central Bank Chief Post. What Is Good for Boyko Is Bad for Yegorov"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The process—which began yesterday—of trying once again to agree on the draft law "On Making Amendments and Additions to the RSFSR Law 'On the Central Bank of the RSFSR,'" which had yet another time been rejected by the Federation Council with a phrasing humiliating for the State Duma ("on account of certain provisions being unacceptable") now holds interest because of its political aspects, not legal ones. However surprising this statement might sound, influential forces in the structures of both branches of power may have ample reason to be interested in keeping the bill in draft form as long as possible.

One reason for this interest is that they are unprepared for waging an overt struggle for the post of Central Bank chief. Acting Central Bank chairman Tatyana Paramonova has up to now given the president or the prime minister no reason to question her loyalty. Yet her orientation toward Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin has earned Paramonova the reputation of an "absolutely uncontrollable," "iron-fist acting" chairman, who firmly complies with any decisions made on high. In fact, for a bureaucrat this line of conduct is a sine qua non if he is to be an unsinkable office holder.

The problem is that the Central Bank chairman is an elected post to which one cannot be appointed, while a candidate has to go through a lengthy confirmation procedure at the State Duma. His or her opponents would have sufficient tools to block the election of a new head. In fact, the very failure of a candidate at a parliamentary session would be a moral, rather than actual defeat. Given the head of state's support, nothing can prevent Paramonova from holding the office of bank chairman at least for another year, even if as acting chairman. Moreover, initially it seemed that the premier and the president were interested in keeping Tatyana Paramonova an appointed, not elected, Central Bank chief for some time so that she would prove her loyalty. Now, however, the problem of ensuring continuity in economic policy for a longer period than the one remaining before the June presidential elections requires that the current acting chairman's candidacy be confirmed as Central Bank chief.

There is every reason to talk about a titanic preparatory effort being undertaken in the run-up to the consideration of Tatyana Paramonova's candidacy by the State Duma. In fact, there are two influential groups of the Russian banking community that have launched lobbying campaigns among the deputies. On one hand, according to unofficial information, representatives of the Russian Banks Association under Sergey Yegorov, in which the trio of Inkombank, Most-Bank, and Tekhnobank calls the shots, has started energetically to shape an anti-Paramonova lobby by skillfully exploiting passions inflamed by the Central Bank's instruction letter on keeping 20 percent of money on bank accounts. On the other, the past several weeks have seen a flurry of activity on the part of Oleg Boyko, Natsionalnyy Kredit bank and Olbi concern president, who plays on the government (hence, the Central Bank's) team and who has managed to accomplish what seemed to be nearly impossible, namely, to bring together a disparate pool of representatives of various factions, ranging from the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] to "Russia's Choice" and "Stability," in support of Paramonova. Boyko even struck up an alliance with the communists, who assured the incumbent acting Central Bank chief of their support. However strange it may seem, the votes of the communists and the pro-presidential "Stability" are the sole permanent element of this shaky alliance. The results of the first attempt to have Paramonova elected (at the end of last year) have shown that despite all statements by the LDPR leaders to the effect that he can secure her victory, in reality slightly more than 80 people voted for Paramonova. Admittedly, Paramonova's opponents, who have to seek allies among mercurial parliamentary radicals, do not feel particularly secure either.

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As a result, both sides have a desire to put off the consideration of a candidacy for the post of Central Bank chief. The most convenient way of doing so is to drag out the adoption of the draft law on "On Making Amendments and Additions to the RSFSR Law 'On the Central Bank of the RSFSR,'" which must be passed before the issue of Tatyana Paramonova can be raised (the head of state and the prime minister have already made it clear that none other than she will be nominated). It cannot be ruled out that for this very reason Nikolay Gonchar, head of the Federation Council Budget and Finance Committee, an old fox in staff intrigues, has persistently been seeking to have the draft law rejected on the stated grounds that "certain provisions of it are unacceptable."

Bank Investment Offers Spark 'Optimism'

MM1904110995 Moscow TRUD in Russian 18 Apr 95 pp 1-2

[Article by Feliks Goryunov: "Bankers Lend a Hand and Give Government a Chance To Get Economy Out of Stagnation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is a noticeable revival and renewed optimism in the corridors of economic power. This has been caused not only by the encouraging reports from the front line in the fight against inflation and by the speedy receipt by the budget of the first contribution from the IMF's $6-billion loan. The hope that the government will nonetheless be able to finance the budget deficit and encourage investment processes has been aroused by the unexpected support from banking circles.

At the 30 March enlarged Council of Ministers session that discussed the privatization program for 1995, a representative of a consortium of six major Russian banks announced its readiness to grant the government a loan on condition that major shareholdings in state enterprises were transferred to its trust management. Five days later another group of banks, united in the "Reliability" Club, stated that it was ready to finance priority state programs if most-favored status—tax concessions on investment, accelerated depreciation, and loan-repayment guarantees—was granted.

As is now established practice, the press rushed to report these events to the general public as a sensation and supplemented them with rumors. Stressing the differences between the consortium and club proposals, certain journalists started talking about a "war" between the banking groups for tasty slices of the state pie, and about their desire to strengthen their ties with "their own people" in the government and thereby solve their own problems. It was claimed that even the consortium and the club put together could not afford to lend the government the 10 trillion rubles which, according to the budget ratified for 1995, should be received from the sale of state property. They have also been writing about the difficulties which officials from the White House and bankers have been facing in the process of thrashing out the terms of the "deal of the century"—as certain journalists have already dubbed the talks between them....

Attendant circumstances naturally play a considerable role in economic processes, but they are not the decisive factor. The features of Russia's entry to the market lie in the excessive role of the state apparatus and its economic policy, on the one hand, and, on the other, the advanced development of the financial sphere of the economy. So it turns out that it is not trade or industry, but banking capital that is setting the pace in the Russian economy today. And the economy can be saved from crisis only through joint efforts by the state and the banks, organizing various kinds of partnership between them.

Bankers are encouraged to engage in such partnership by the changing economic situation—incipient financial stabilization is making long-term investment in industry more attractive than the short-term financial operations from which they have mostly made their money at a time of high inflation. It is also profitable for the banks to acquire large blocks of shares in privatized enterprises because of their currently very low prices—when the economy picks up and stock market conditions improve, those shares can be sold at a handsome profit.

Apart from the need to finance part of the budget deficit by selling state property, the state is being prompted to cooperate with the bankers by the dashing of its hopes of attracting inward investment. Political risk, inadequate legislation, unpredictable fiscal policy, and other factors have seen the flood of Western capital that was beginning at the start of last year shrink to a trickle. Foreign investors are currently refraining from investing even in the high-return oil industry.

The lack of any interest on the part of the rich West in Russian property has led to a share-price collapse on the stock market, to which is added the threatened sale of securities in 7,186 enterprises at monetary auctions this year as announced by the State Committee for the Management of State Property the other day. The only thing that could contain such a collapse would be an agreement between the government and the bankers to transfer trust management of these enterprises to them, and a clearly expressed willingness by the government to create favorable conditions for investment in production. The combination of these two factors—favorable trust management conditions and investment incentives—would be able to change the conditions on the stock market, as well as the overall situation in the economy. Otherwise, despite financial stabilization, a long period of stagnation can be expected.

A breakthrough is possible even without any substantial inflows of foreign investment, since there are other financial resources in the country apart from banking capital. In the course of check privatization resources were built up by investment funds. Savings seeking profitable areas to invest in are held by pension funds and insurance companies. Strong commercial firms

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could invest their capital in more reliable businesses than trade. Finally, the population also has savings—millions of Russians could invest their life savings in the shares of promising enterprises, if not in the hope of high dividends, at least in the expectation that the shares will rise in price.

So, by lending the government a hand, the bankers are giving it an opportunity to get the economy out of stagnation. We will see in the very near future whether it will be able to properly grasp this opportunity.

'Massive Gulf' Between Government and Trade Unions

MM1304141895 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Sergey Ponomarev: "Chubays Could Not String 15 Million Workers Along"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Late in the evening before the national day of trade union action set for Wednesday [12 April], Government First Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays finally met with leaders of the FITUR [Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia]. However, at the press conference afterwards at which the High Contracting Parties sat next to each other, they showed that there is a massive gulf between their positions.

In the opinion of A. Chubays, the government is meeting the majority of the demands set out in the March joint protocol. To be specific, the Finance Ministry has confirmed the schedule for paying unpaid wages for the past year to the defense sectors: Some 450 billion rubles [R] have already been allotted to enterprises. Leaving aside the R50 billion sent to Maritime Kray's striking miners, it is planned to defer their payments into medical insurance, pension, and other funds. Some R85 billion is being allotted from February's budget to support teachers, and from 1 May pensions will begin to be indexed by 27 percent.

The trade unions have a different approach. "A process designed to solve problems is not the same thing as the solution itself," FITUR Chairman Mikhail Shmakov considers. It was therefore decided not to call off the mass protest actions, in which, it was predicted, in excess of 15 million people were going to participate. M. Shmakov noted that the pressure on the government from below provides useful support in the negotiating process.

Although FITUR, in preparing the latest spring offensive, did not call for the government's resignation, its leaders do not consider it necessary to condemn their colleagues from the Russian regions who made just such a demand. "If in Sakhalin the price of a loaf of bread has reached R2,600 and delays with pay are leading to hunger in Maritime Kray and Altay Kray, it is only natural that people go to rallies and demonstrations carrying political slogans," the FITUR chairman stated in conversation with me.

It seems that the trade unions, which have been scoring points time and time again in their endless contest against the present cabinet, have chosen a new tactic. It is no longer enough for them to squeeze out of it extraordinary grants for particularly needy enterprises and sectors. We hear with increasing frequency the question: How can we get the maximum amount of money into the budget's revenue side without cutting social expenditure too much?

Amongst others there is the following solution: the introduction of a state monopoly on the production and sale of alcohol, gasoline, and cigarettes. But as the government opposes this in every possible way, it is no good as yet.

New Labor Confederation of Russia Founded 12 Apr

MK1304095395 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Viktor Khamrayev under the "Antipodes" rubric: "Free Trade Unions Want No Truck With Independent Ones. Confederation of Labor Will Deal With Directors Rather Than With Government"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian labor movement now has a second trade union center as a result of the congress that founded the Labor Confederation of Russia (LCR) yesterday.

Until recently, Russia had only one trade union center, under the aegis of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR]. However, as miners strikes began in 1989, some work collectives resolutely dissociated themselves from the FITUR (seeing in it a successor to the All-Union Central Trade Union Council—a school for communism) and proceeded to create their own "free trade unions." This gave rise to the Independent Miners Trade Union of Russia, the Federation of Trade Unions of Air Traffic Controllers, the Russian Stevedores Trade Union, and so on.

Seven such trade unions decided to join their efforts in the LCR. The new trade union entity, which pursues the traditional objective of protecting working people's economic interests, intends to create in Russia "real trade unions" that will uphold the interests of "precisely the wage workers."

In this connection, the LCR rule out all contacts with FITUR structures, owing to the fact that the independent trade unions "admit as their members" both wage workers and their employers. In the words of Aleksandr Sergeyev, leader of the Russian miners trade union (who headed the organizing committee to prepare the LCR founding congress), FITUR thus inherited all the qualities of the former "transmission belt of the CPSU among the workers" and "is creating a new area of nomenklatura."

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Mr. Sergeyev finds evidence in particular in the actions of the Trade Union of Agro-Industrial Complex Workers. Its members in the Duma make up the Duma Agro-Industrial Complex faction, and—to use the miners trade union boss' words—"are now lobbying in the legislature for the interests of farm managers" rather than for the interests of wage workers. Mr. Sergeyev claims that the "new nomenklatura" is trying today to do the same with miners and railway workers.

The conceptual differences between the second and the first trade union centers do not end there. In its practical work, the LCR would not resort to mass protest actions like the one undertaken by the FITUR yesterday. The main work, Confederation leaders believe, should be done locally: Workers should put in claims to their own specific employers rather than to the government. Because, for example, "70 percent" of the unpaid wages problem, Aleksandr Sergeyev maintains, can be solved in the directors' offices.

The congress discussed and passed the rules under which all LCR decisions will definitely be simply recommendations, never abridging the freedom of "free trade unions." It also approved a number of documents necessary for registration and elected the LCR Council. Anatoliy Golov ("Yabloko"), the Duma Labor Legislation Subcommittee chairman, who took part in the congress proceedings, approved the birth of the alternative trade union.

The Confederation has not yet raised the question of creating a "Free Trade Unions of Russia" election bloc. Possibly because no more than 200,000 wage workers back the LCR at this stage.

Chernomyrdin: Agro-Industrial Subsidy To Be Reduced

MM1004115795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Protocol" rubric: "Trillions for Agro-industrial Complex"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The agro-industrial complex' overall subsidy will be reduced, while state support will be exercised through the stimulation of demand for agricultural produce. This was stated by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at the All-Russia Peasant Assembly.

The agro-industrial complex will obtain a total of 35 trillion rubles [R] in 1995, according to the government chairman. In his opinion, the budget deficit must not be covered by loans—inflation must be beaten, then prices will stabilize and savings—and, correspondingly, investment— will increase. Moreover, an effective tax system, for which a legislative base is essential, will help the economy advance, the premier observed.

Peasant's Assembly Threatens Strike

MM1304133695 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 13 Apr 95 p 1

[All-Russia Peasant Assembly open letter to Russian President Yeltsin and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin: "We Demand"—SELSKAYA ZHIZN headline; first two paragraphs are SELSKAYA ZHIZN introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our newspaper has already reported that the 5 April all-Russia Peasants' Assembly deemed the economic reform which the country's government and president are conducting to be destructive, anti-peasant, and antipopular, and advanced a number of demands on the authorities. At the request of readers today we publish the full text of the document adopted by the participants in the assembly.

The assembly decided to instruct the coordination council for the collective actions of the workers of Russia's agro-industrial complex to notify the Russian Federation president and Government of their demands within two days. They set a condition: Unless the demands are met by 10 May 1995 then they will organize an all-Russia strike of peasants and the State Duma deputies' faction of the "Agrarian Party of Russia" will raise the question of expressing no confidence in the government. The Central Committee of the agro- industrial complex workers' trade union has been asked to examine the question of organizing an all-Russian peasants' strike.

To Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin

To V.S. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government

We, the representatives of the peasants, workers in the agro-industrial complex, private farmers, the Agrarian party of Russia, and the Russian Agrarian union, the trade union of workers of the agro-industrial complex, the Russian council of kolkhozes and other forms of farming delegated to Moscow to the all-Russian Peasants' Assembly, having discussed the critical situation in Russia's agro-industrial complex, believe the economic reform which is being carried out by the Russian Federation Government and President to be DESTRUCTIVE, ANTIPEASANT, and ANTIPOPULAR.

Inflation, the growing discrepancy between prices for industrial and agricultural output, the increase in the cost of credit resources, the difficulties which are being artificially created for the sale of the output produced, and the elbowing of Russian foods from the domestic market have caused the collapse of agricultural production.

The spring field work is being disrupted. This will inevitably cause a drastic reduction in food production, a new spiral of price increases, the enforced reduction of the consumption of food products by the overwhelming

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majority of Russians, and Russia's definitive loss of food security and consequently, of state independence.

The all-Russia Peasants' Assembly draws the attention of the Russian Federation president and Government to the fact that the DEMANDS of the all-Russia rural rally (August 1994) for the majority of positions have remained unfulfilled as have the AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' DEMANDS on the government and president adopted in 1993.

In fulfilling the will and wishes of the workers of Russia's agro-industrial complex, peasants and processing workers, private farmers and rural intelligentsia, scientists, doctors, teachers, young people, and students, we the delegates to the all-Russia Peasants' Assembly DEMAND:

1. That rural commodity producers be given priority in the supply of funds in a quantity enabling them to carry out the complex of field work in full.

2. That a special government program be adopted for extricating the agro-industrial complex from the crisis, elaborated by the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences and approved by the all-Russian economic conference.

That a system of state regulation of the economy be introduced as an essential condition for the stabilization of the market.

That parity of prices and the equivalence of trade turnover be restored between agriculture and industry and economic relations between city and countryside be normalized.

That the ratio of prices for grain and diesel fuel be ensured at 1:1, for milk and diesel fuel at 3:1, and for meat and diesel fuel at 15:1.

3. That the payment of the debts of enterprises and organizations of the agro-industrial complex for credits from the Russian Federation Central Bank allocated in 1992-1994 and for the interest on them be deferred for 10 years relegating them to the internal state debt with the payment of these sums starting in 1998.

4. That the federal laws "on the federal budget for 1995" and "on purchases and deliveries of agricultural output, raw material, and food for state needs" and also the Russian Federation Government decrees as regards the measures envisaged for ensuring economic conditions for the agro-industrial complex' functioning be fulfilled in full.

That monthly financing be ensured for the agro-industrial complex as a percentage of the annual volume of financing and also that the following be supplied promptly and to the correct recipient:
budget loans which are provided;
subsidies for the support of stockbreeding, the introduction of elite seed growing, and support for agrarian science;
compensation for expenses on electricity and heating and all types of fuel and on the acquisition of equipment, mineral fertilizers, plant protection agents, and mixed feed and for insurance payments;
the reimbursement of part of the expenses of animal by-products plants.

5. That timely payments be ensured with rural commodity producers for the food and raw material delivered to state resources, that fines be established for delays in payments to rural producers by all consumers of agricultural output, including the state, at the rate of twice the interest rate of commercial banks. That support be given to the consumer cooperatives, designed to meet the needs of rural inhabitants for goods and services.

6. That in the first half of 1995 there be a rectification of the unfairness allowed in privatizing enterprises for the processing of agricultural output and the production and technical servicing and material and technical backup for the agro-industrial complex and that in the property of these enterprises the proportion of shares of agricultural producers be increased to the main block of shares and that they be transformed into agricultural cooperatives.

7. That the management of social insurance in the agro-industrial complex be entrusted to the trade union of workers of the Russian Federation agro-industrial complex.

Moscow, 5 April 1995.

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International Affairs

Foreign Minister on Relations With Moscow, NATO Expansion

LD1404225295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1605 GMT 14 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov, Yuriy Malinov, Vladimir Malyshev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Athens, 14 April—Moscow and Kiev can solve any problems of bilateral relations in a business-like way, Foreign Minister of Ukraine Hennadiy Udovenko told an ITAR-TASS correspondent in an interview in the corridors at the meeting of foreign ministers of countries in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) zone. [passage omitted]

The Ukrainian minister stressed that he was for the closest and most productive cooperation between Russia and Ukraine that would answer the interests of both peoples. He said it was important for the sides to refrain from exacerbating the problem of Crimea and that action like the recent trip by the deputies would only create an unhealthy atmosphere.

Kiev, the republic's foreign minister said, is against NATO's hasty expansion into eastern Europe, is carrying out a non-bloc policy and does not wish to become a buffer between the participants in the Tashkent agreement on collective defense of the CIS on the one side and NATO states on the other. "It is important that Russia and NATO find a common language," Hennadiy Udovenko said, "as for Ukraine's inter-relations with NATO, it is building them within the framework of 'Partnership for Peace', and also on the basis of an individual cooperation program."

Decisive Action Urged in Negotiations With Russia

WS1904084495 Kiev VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 12 Apr 95 p 3

[Report on interview with Ivan Zayets, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council Commission for Foreign Affairs and Ties With CIS, by Olha Chorna; place and date not given: "The Russian State Duma Needed an Enemy. So They Selected Us"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *The Russian State Duma's undeclared cold war against official Kiev is continuing. A majority of Russian deputies have voted in favor of a debate on the issue of "illegal transfer of the city of Sevastopol to Ukraine" at one of the next sessions. Commenting on this decision by his Russian colleagues during an interview with VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI, Ivan Zayets, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council Commission for Foreign Affairs and Ties With CIS, termed it an "extremely dangerous step threatening stability and security in Europe."*

A similar decision, the deputy recalled, was made by the Russian Supreme Council in 1993. At that time, it was discussed by the UN Security Council, and was regarded as contradictory to the goals and principles of the United Nations, international law, and the terms of the 1993 Ukrainian-Russian treaty. The current situation is more complex. Ukraine recently joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. The documents signed by Ukraine say that an encroachment on our state's territorial integrity may become a reason for withdrawing from the NPT. Therefore, the threat of disrupting the process of Ukraine's nuclear disarmament appears.

"This is why we should immediately address the leaders of nuclear states and the UN Security Council, in connection with the interference in Ukraine's internal affairs and territorial claims laid by a state, which, among other countries, obliged itself to guarantee Ukraine security," Ivan Zayets stated. He also noted that the Russian authorities "have long and carefully been preparing for radical measures aimed at destabilizing the situation in Crimea." This can be confirmed by visits to the peninsula by State Duma deputies, particularly Konstantin Zatulin [chairman of the Russian State Duma Commission for CIS Affairs], as well as by the activities of a Russian consular group. The recent desecration of the Ukrainian flag can also be related to these issues.

"The following question arises: Why is this being done? I think that this is being done to legalize chauvinism and elevate it to the level of a state policy," Ivan Zayets believes. "Chauvinism is the foundation of any empire. Russia is currently facing not only elections to power branches, but also an election pertaining to its future: Will it become a national democratic state, or will it return to its imperial past? Political confrontation has reached its apogee in Russia. In the opinion of certain politicians, it is thus time to search for an enemy. The executive branch has found an enemy embodied by the Chechens. The representative branch has perhaps become obsessed with the idea of 'an external enemy.' And no matter how sad it is for us, it has found it in Ukraine. In this situation, our parliament, government, and the president should act very decisively. Substantial corrections must be introduced in the negotiating process with Russia, and this primarily relates to the problem of the Black Sea Fleet. We should sign documents with the Russians, stipulating that Russian troops must leave our country within three years according to a precisely defined timetable, and that, until their complete withdrawal, they will remain in Ukraine on our terms."

Dudayev's Family Reportedly Given Asylum

LD1804164795 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—A Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists mission that delivered humanitarian aid to Chechnya has evacuated the family of Dzhokhar

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Dudayev to Ukraine, leaders of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists told a news conference on the results of their visit to Chechnya on 18 April. They quoted the Dudayev military headquarters as saying that 30,000 Russians have been killed and 80,000 wounded, the news conference heard.

"What is taking place is, really, genocide against the Chechen people by the Russian Army. Chechyna now would best be supported by Ukraine's recognizing it as an independent state," said Ukrainian People's Deputy Roman Krutsyk, a member of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists leadership.

[Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian at 1545 GMT on 18 April in a Kiev-datelined report adds: "Members of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, Red Cross officials, and journalists who accompanied a shipment of humanitarian aid to Chechnya between 3 and 16 April told a news conference upon their return that the family of the republic's president Dzhokhar Dudayev has been given asylum in Ukraine. 'The family of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev is currently in Ukraine, since back home they are victims of a manhunt,' Deputy Mykhaylo Ratushnyy said."]

Latvian Delegation Ends Visit, Kuchma To Visit in May

LD1904101295 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 19 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—A delegation from the Latvian Foreign Ministry led by Martins Virsis, parliamentary secretary to Latvia's Foreign Ministry, ended its working visit to Ukraine on 18 April. Meetings were held with Borys Tarasyuk, Ukraine's first deputy foreign minister, and WITH members of the Supreme Council Commission for Foreign Affairs and Ties with the CIS. At issue in particular were the preparations for the state visit to the Latvian Republic by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma which is planned for the end of May.

Ukraine Ready To Send Observers to Abkhazia

LD1804204195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 18 (Interfax-Ukraine)—Ukraine is ready to send its observers to Abkhazia, either under the auspices of the OSCE or the U.N., the head of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's information department, Yuriy Sergeyev, told a briefing in Kiev Tuesday. However, neither Russia nor Abkhazia agree to that, he added.

"Georgia has no objections," he remarked.

According to Sergeyev, "in such cases observers should be invited."

National Affairs

Bashkortostan Delegation Holds Talks on Cooperation

AU1804133795 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 13 Apr 95 p 2

[URYADOVYY KURYER Report: "Results Will Not Be Long Coming"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Republic of Bashkortostan delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister Midkhat Shakirov was in Ukraine on 11 April on a working visit. The visit was timed for the expiry of the bilateral agreement between the two governments.

Ukraine's Acting Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk stressed this during the talks. Our states need to coordinate the restructuring of their relations on a fundamentally new market basis. The sphere of mutual interest between Ukraine and Bashkortostan encompasses a whole range of cooperation trends: Ukraine is interested in getting energy sources, some types of raw materials, and chemical products. Bashkortostan, in turn, needs the industrial output of Ukrainian enterprises.

Midkhat Shakirov briefed the Ukrainian delegation on the economic situation in his republic and stressed that there has been practically no decline in Bashkortostan's industrial or agricultural production. On the contrary, an increase has been observed. That is why our states are interested in intensifying trade.

The talks were completed with the signing of a protocol between the governments of Ukraine and the Republic of Bashkortostan on trade, economic, and cultural cooperation in 1995 and by adding certain types of products to the Protocol on the Mutual Supply of Some Types of Products.

Acting Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, Vice Prime Minister Anatoliy Dyuba, and representatives of our country's ministries and departments took part in the talks on the Ukrainian side.

Deputies, Officials on Recent Scandal in Parliament

WS1804125495 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 13 Apr 95 pp 1,3

[Report by Larysa Zhalovaha, Maryana Oliynyk, Natalya Ishchenko, Viktor Borzenko, and Volodymyr Katsman: "Power Test. Will the President and the Parliament Withstand It?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Parliamentary debate on the Law on Power promised to be difficult. Yet, nobody expected such a storm. After the first words of a speech delivered by Oleksandr Steshenko, chairman of the Commission for State Building (who had not distinguished himself with anything particular until that day)—containing harsh aspersions against the executive

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branch, later assessed as a provocation—the president rose from his seat, expecting, apparently, that the speaker would put out the "Bickford fuse" lit by the communist deputy. Oleksandr Moroz did not do that.

The president then left the parliament. [passage omitted]

In the parliament's lobbies, KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI correspondents managed to learn about other politicians' reaction to the events.

People's Deputy Ivan Plyushch, member of the "Independent" group:

I personally disagree with many points of the Law on Power. But I have no right to deny the president the right to realize his intention to head the executive branch, to carry out his program.... Once, when I was the speaker, Leonid Kuchma also requested additional powers (Ivan Stepanovych noted this not without some bitterness—editorial note). However, there were no incidents at that time, as was the case today.... We gave him powers for six months, and nobody asked for more at that time.... Of course, the current situation in parliament is atypical. But everything is atypical in our country. It is even atypical that some people are still considering whether we should build a democratic, law-governed, and independent state, or 'protect workers' rights."

Volodymyr Marchenko, the Socialist Party faction:

In my opinion, the president and his team displayed weakness by leaving the room. We believe that the Law on Power leads to the most rigid dictatorship. I will never vote for this law, for it violates the current Constitution and the principles of the Declaration on Ukraine's State Sovereignty.

Vyacheslav Chornovil, Rukh's faction:

We have many grievances against the Law on Power. Although it is imperfect, there is no other law. And the need to divide powers is so urgent that we would even vote for a worse bill. We must begin this process, because conflicts between the executive and legislative branches may result in the "Moscow option."

I would like to note that in the current situation, obviously, the president's nerves broke down. One can understand him as a human being.

People's Deputy Volodymyr Shcherban, chairman of the Donetsk Oblast Council:

Everyone lacked patience today. The Supreme Council chairman should certainly have stopped Steshenko, who, in turn, should have respected the opinion of the conciliatory commission.... Nevertheless, I am convinced that the Law on Power will be passed by this parliament. Local leaders are currently waiting for this bill—we need a clear division of powers....

Volodymyr Filenko, leader of the Party of Democratic Revival of Ukraine:

In my opinion, Oleksandr Moroz violated preliminary agreements and, of course, regulations. This conflict has objectively been maturing—passions over the Law on Power have been flaring for more than one day, and the issue is extremely important. For me, one thing is perfectly clear: Although the bill is not flawless, it must be passed.... I think that the president could have tried to resist the left-wingers's attack. And he could have responded to them right here, in parliament. The main conclusion from this is that nothing will succeed in our country unless a parliamentary majority supporting the president's reform is formed. The presidential team should think about this, though I do not rule out some nonparliamentary actions on their part.... The president can propose if not a referendum on confidence in the two branches of power, than at least a plebiscite....

Oleksandr Steshenko, the main character behind the burying of the president's hopes for the quick adoption of the Law on Power, was noticeably confused:

Why are they saying that I am a provocateur, he asked the press during a recess. After all, my remarks were purely theoretical: The executive lays claims to extraordinary powers as regards governing the state.

Oleksandr Mykolayovych believes that his reasoning, voiced from the parliamentary rostrum, was based only on the Constitution. And he is perplexed over an incorrect interpretation of his stance: Why did parliamentarians of various political orientations manage to unite around this Constitution when a threat to our statehood arose in Crimea, but they did not manage to do so today?

Oleksandr Mykolayovych has no doubts that a threat to our statehood still exists: "We should select: Either we build a state, or we legalize a totalitarian regime headed by our president in a unitary state."

On the eve of the parliamentary debate on the Law on Power, Oleksandr Moroz told journalists that the Law on Local Self- Government has been removed from the agenda, at Oleksandr Steshenko's request.

Let us be frank—a simultaneous debate on laws including contradictory norms could have provoked an outburst, Oleksandr Steshenko said. I knew that there would be an outburst, and I left a "vent" to prevent it....

"It was an awesome 'vent!'" journalists said in response.

National Security Council Secretary Volodymyr Horbulin:

If Deputy Steshenko had represented himself, he should have registered himself before the speech. I do not believe that his opinion concurs with the commission's opinion. Any people's deputy should think not about what is seething in his heart, but about how we should build a state. I observed Deputy Steshenko before his speech—there was Bonapartism in his every step.... His "prominent" speech may have very serious consequences.

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Presidential Administration Chief Dmytro Tabachnyk:

The current conflict, or rather the petty provocation sufficiently organized by Deputy Steshenko, who attempted to disrupt the regular legislative process with his tricks, indicates that the left-wing forces understand that normal political and legal reform means an end of the Soviet rule. The most admissible way is to pass the Law on Power by a simple majority. [passage omitted]

Parliament Adopts 'Intermediate' Law on Presidential Powers

LD1804133795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1305 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—The Ukrainian parliament has passed the law today envisaging that the Ukrainian president is the head of the state and the head of the executive power. This resolution was adopted during debates on the law of power and local government suggested to be considered in parliament by the Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

Under the law, the post of the Ukrainian president can be occupied by a Ukrainian citizen aged between 35-65 who has lived in Ukraine for the past ten years and has a good command of the Ukrainian language. The now President Kuchma will be 57 this year.

Under the new law, the president will exercise his powers through the government he heads and bodies of the executive power. However, the president will not directly head the cabinet of ministers, although a considerable number of lawmakers insisted that he should. The president appoints the prime minister and forms the government, whose programme shall be endorsed by the parliament.

Although some articles of the law were left out to be discussed in the third reading, it is not clear yet whether the parliament will take part in the formation of the government. Many lawmakers support the idea that candidates to the cabinet of ministers be approved beforehand by parliamentary commissions.

If this new law is endorsed, it will automatically become Ukraine's new constitution, which, naturally, does not mean that Ukraine has rejected the idea of adopting the main law of the country. Work at the draft law of the new constitution is underway, and it is being conducted openly. But since this process is a long one, an "intermediate" resolution was adopted.

Supreme Council Approves President's Right of Veto

LD1804170295 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1545 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—In a continuing debate on the law on state power and local self-government in Ukraine, Supreme Council deputies rejected Article 25 which allows the president to dissolve parliament and referred it to the conciliatory drafting commission for amendment. The parliament's budget commission had proposed an additional clause according to which the president may dissolve parliament if it fails to approve a state budget within three months of its submission by the president.

Deputies passed part of Article 26 which says: "The president of Ukraine endorses laws passed by the Supreme Council of Ukraine. Endorsement must take place within two weeks of the time the president receives the texts of the laws from the Supreme Council. In the event of disagreement with the law passed by the Supreme Council, the president may, within the same period, resort to his right of veto and return the law together with his comments to the Supreme Council for another reading."

During the discussion of Article 27, deputies approved the following: "The president of Ukraine acts as the guarantor of Ukraine's state sovereignty, independence, inviolability of borders, national security, and territorial integrity, adherence to the Constitution and laws of Ukraine, and rights and freedoms of a citizen."

Rukh Urges Liquidation of Crimean Territorial Autonomy

LD1804130195 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0935 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev— "After the Supreme Council and the president of Ukraine took decisions directed at overcoming the deep crisis in the economic, social, and administrative spheres of Crimea in the light of provision of unimpeded implementation of the Ukrainian laws on the whole territory of the state, the actions of the leadership and part of the deputies of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea have been consistently directed at ignoring the laws of Ukraine and stimulating the processes of destabilization of the situation on the peninsular. The address of the head of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in the State Duma of the Russian Federation containing libelous remarks against the bodies of state power of Ukraine and calls to interference by the Russian Federation in internal affairs of Ukraine was a logical step in that context.

"In this situation the central leadership of the People's Movement of Ukraine deems it necessary to state that further existence of the Crimean autonomy in its current form is a constant destabilizing factor in the south of Ukraine which undermines the process of effective reforms. Therefore we believe that it is time that decisions were taken at the state level on removing a source of tension in Ukraine, i.e. liquidating the territorial autonomy of Crimea".

This was a statement of the central leadership of the PMU [Rukh].

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42 Crimean Deputies Form Parliament Loyal to Ukraine

LD1804180895 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1130 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—Forty-two of the 96 deputies in the Crimean Supreme Council decided on 18 April to form the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and appealed to the Supreme Council of Ukraine to dissolve the republic's current parliament. Deputies suggested that after the dissolution the powers of the Supreme Council of Crimea be transferred to the newly formed Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The appeal was signed by Refat Chubarov, a member of the current parliament's presidium and leader of the Kurultay faction.

The 42 deputies who met this morning described Crimean speaker Serhiy Tsekov's address to the Russian State Duma as "a step unworthy of a responsible politician, one aimed at destabilizing the situation in Ukraine and creating artificial tension between Ukraine and Russia."

The group declared that the leadership of the Crimean parliament and some of its deputies are not willing to engage in constructive work to ensure normal social and economic conditions for the residents of the peninsula.

Crimean Deputies Appeal Read in Parliament

LD1804193395

[FBIS Editorial Report] Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian at 1300 GMT on 18 April carries an appeal from 50 deputies of the Crimean Supreme Council, which was read in the parliament chamber by Deputy Yuriy Karmazin. The proceedings were broadcast live. The appeal, which follows, was read in Russian:

"To the Supreme Council of Ukraine—an appeal.

"We, deputies of the autonomous republic of Crimea, upholding legality and statehood and being guided by the Ukrainian Constitution and legislation, regard the speech by Crimean Supreme Council Chairman S.P. Tsekov in the Russian State Duma as a step unworthy of a responsible politician, aimed at destabilizing the situation within Ukraine and creating artificial tension between Ukraine and Russia.

"Considering the lack of desire and ability among the leadership and some deputies of the Supreme Council of Crimea to engage in constructive work to ensure normal social and economic conditions for the Crimean population, we have decided, in strict conformity with Ukrainian legislation, to form the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

"Seeking constructive cooperation and striving to eliminate political and legal tension in relations between the autonomy and the state, and to ensure normal conditions for their harmonious and steady development, the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea calls on deputies of the Ukrainian Supreme Council to act as the guarantor of public peace and preservation of our state's integrity. We believe that in order to achieve civic concord in Crimea and conform to the Constitution of Ukraine and the Law on the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the Supreme Council of Crimea must be dissolved and its powers transferred to the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

"[Signed] Refat Chubarov, chairman of the Meeting of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea

"(?Shpilkin), secretary of the Meeting

"18 April 1995, city of Simferopol.

"Minutes of the meeting. Votes in favor: 50. Against: nil. Abstentions: nil."

Crimean Tartar Leader Warns of Civil War

LD1804211695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1715 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—"The latest actions by Serhiy Tsekov [Crimean parliament speaker], irreconcilable opposition by the parliamentary factions of 'Russia' and 'Russia-Unity,' and, in particular, their statements that, to achieve a political goal, one should go all the way, prove that we have never been so close to a civil war ever," Refat Chubarov, the leader of the [Crimean Tartar People] Kurultay parliamentary faction, told journalists on 18 April.

He described Serhiy Tsekov's speech in Russia's State Duma as "a push into the vortex of civil war."

The Crimean Tartar leader confirmed that 50 deputies had attended the meeting that declared the institution of the Supreme Council of the Crimean autonomous republic, but 45 had signed the appeal to the parliament of Ukraine.

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Belarus

Security Officials To Receive Training in U.S.

LD1804180395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, April 18 (INTERFAX-WEST)—Certain experts in the Belarusian State Security Committee (KGB) will be trained in the United States, KGB deputy chairman Ivan Yurkin has said.

He said an agreement to this effect was concluded by the secret services of the United States and Belarus in the summer of 1993, when the then Belarusian KGB chief Eduard Shirkovskiy visited Washington.

Asked about cooperation with Russian secret services, Yurkin said that "there have been no fundamental changes in relations between the Belarusian KGB and the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service [FSK]: We are working on the basis of bilateral agreements."

He said that KGB and FSK will soon exchange officers who would be coordinating efforts by their secret services. Yurkin says that such coordination was required in certain fields such as the struggle against organized crime. "This is internationally accepted practice and there is nothing sensational about it," Yurkin said.

He dismissed the Belarusian Popular Front leader Zenon Pozniak's statement that KGB officers have been instructed to gather discrediting information against democratically-minded members of parliament and that "provocational actions are being organized against them, including physical liquidation". Yurkin said that KGB officers had received no instructions to spy on people's deputies and that in their every-day activity the KGB staff stuck to the Constitution and the law.

KGB Denies Collecting Compromising Data

LD1804210995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 18 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Belarusian KGB personnel have never been told to collect compromising data on candidates to the country's parliament, the committee deputy chief Ivan Yurkin told INTERFAX.

He dismissed a statement made by Zenon Poznyak, leader of the opposition Belarusian Popular Front that the KGB personnel had been ordered to collect compromising data on democratic candidates and to organize provocations against them going as far as killing them. Yurkin said that the committee personnel are guided by the country's constitution and legislation.

He added that some personnel will be trained in the U.S.A. an agreement to this effect was reached, he said, in the summer of 1993 when the then Belarusian KGB chief Eduard Shirkovskiy visited Washington.

Yurkin said that this kind of cooperation is essential in the face of increasing transnational crime.

Asked about cooperation with Russian special services, Yurkin said that the Belarusian KGB and the Russian Federal Security Service continued unchanged in the framework of bilateral agreements.

He explained that the two services will exchange personnel shortly who will be permanently engaged in coordinating the cooperation. Yurkin said that coordination was necessary, above all, in combatting organized crime. He did not see anything sensational about it.

Lukashenka on Departing Parliament, Opposition

WS1904091295 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1800 GMT 15 Apr 95

[Video report by V. Kharkow and V. Sorkin—correspondents identified by caption]

[FBIS Translated Text] The spectrum of attitudes toward all that happened is surely ambiguous. The president, in particular, has put the blame for forcing tension on journalists. Nevertheless, there have already been diplomatic reactions to the events. A statement issued by the U.S. Embassy in Belarus views the political developments with anxiety. It also voices an appeal to resolve political discords by democratic means, with full observance of human rights and in accordance with international agreements signed by Belarus. Incidentally, the Belarusian president has reacted to such statements immediately.

[Begin Lukashenka recording, in Russian] If they want to operate in such a way—by receiving information from newspapers or through telephone calls from oppositionists—they have the right to do so. Our official report will appropriately be presented to the entire world, including the United States, in case the United States needs such a report. [end recording]

This was on Thursday, on the final day of the parliament's work, when, in the absence of opposition deputies, complete understanding reigned—with small exceptions—between the legislative and executive branches in the Oval Hall. All proposals submitted for the debate were supported almost unanimously. Perhaps, the only unexpected turn was taken by the deputies in reverting to a discussion of a draft law on introducing changes to the law on state holidays. In the course of the debate, the parliamentarians approved the day of the October Revolution as a state holiday in Belarus. In essence, the deputies rehabilitated the Soviet central holiday, which had been abolished in Belarus.

As a matter of fact, Thursday became a day of solemnization for the majority of the Supreme Soviet deputies. There were photographs taken by the deputies with the

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president, in oblast deputy groups, and with the leadership of the parliament, both former and present. True, [former speaker] Stanislaw Shushkevich was not present at the ceremony. Satisfied, the president summarized the results.

[Begin Lukashenka recording, in Russian] I regret very much that such an atmosphere did not exist all the time. We could work this way, we simply could! There will surely be comments now that the deputies were (?pressed) in some way... [pauses] But no... [pauses] Just look: Even the ratification of agreements is under way with Russia, signed already at the state level. The deputies are making reasonable proposals. Why should I argue here? We are removing these questions [from the agenda]. Today proves that both the president and the deputies work in the interests of this state. There is no other state, and never will be.

I understood today what mistakes were made by us—by our power branches—during the seven months of our work. We should have always been working on agreements jointly—the president's team or commission with the Supreme Soviet's team or commission. We should have been together at both the drafting and signing stages. In such a case, there would be no problems at all. Such concerted work, as yesterday in the second half of the day and today, may deserve only the people's love. [end recording]

The president has also not dismissed the possibility of compromises with the opposition.

[Begin Lukashenka recording, in Russian] Believe me, there are quite different people outside the parliament walls. However, while at the microphones [in the session hall], they cannot be understood at all. Therefore, we have very good human relations with them. Regarding politics, I am obliged to look for [a compromise], since they are not simply the opposition—they have the support of many thousands of people who are also citizens of our republic. Therefore, I will look for those common grounds, I will meet them halfway. I do not know whether they will be willing to meet me halfway. [end recording]

Thus, the Supreme Soviet not only concluded its session, but also passed into history itself. Indeed, a page has been turned in the history of Belarusian statehood, a page which covered the entire span of the five-year parliamentary term. Almost everything took place in this period: hesitations, arguments, as well as a parliamentary majority and an opposition minority. Nevertheless, there was also adherence to principles, reasonableness, and understanding. This parliament's departure does not mean the cessation of its work. This was also confirmed by the president during a celebration party.

[Begin Lukashenka recording, in Russian] If we find ourself in difficulties, if we have to adopt a resolution, then—please, do not take it amiss—I, as well as the speaker and the [Supreme Soviet] Presidium will appeal for your help. I would like you to respond to that appeal and offer a helping hand to the president and the government at that crucial moment, should it occur. [end recording]

Free Trade Union: Presidential Referendum 'Blasphemous'

LD1804201295 Minsk Radiostantsiya Belarus International Service in Belarusian 1800 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Executive Committee of the Free Trade Union of Belarus has issued a statement criticizing the actions of the president and government. Against the background of impoverishment of the people, the president's initiative to spend money not on what is desperately needed but on holding a trumped-up referendum on language and state symbols looks blasphemous, in the opinion of the Free Trade Union.

The Executive Committee of the Free Trade Union demands the immediate signing of a general pricing agreement with the trade unions. If not, the Executive Committee intends to call on grass roots organizations of the Free Trade Union of Belarus to make use of all measures allowed by the law to join a collective dispute with the Cabinet of Ministers.

All responsibility for holding the protest of the workers, says the document, will lie with the president and with the government of Belarus.

Moldova

Snegur Discusses Dniester With EU Parliament Delegation

AU1804180795 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 17/4/1995—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur today received Elizabeth Schroedter, chairperson of the Interparliamentary Delegation of the European Parliament on relations with the Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova.

Snegur said, the Moldovan leadership proposes to settle the Dniester dispute the way it solved the Gagauz problem, but is facing non-understanding from behalf of Tiraspol leaders. "In any case, there is no other way but negotiations, and we lay hopes first and foremost on local population on the eastern side of the river."

He pointed out that the recent Dniester referendum de-stabilized the socio-political situation in the republic and cast doubt on the sincerity of some political circles in Russia with regard to the Dniester conflict.

Lucinschi Briefs EU Official on Dniester Developments

AU1804200895 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1830 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 18/4/1995—European Parliament's delegation on relations

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with the Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova headed by Elizabeth Schroedter, on visit in Moldova, today met with Parliament Chairman Petru Lucinschi, his deputy Nicolae Andronic, and representatives of various parliamentary factions.

Speaking about the current socio-political situation in Moldova, Lucinschi has characterized it as stable. He expressed Moldovan leadership's firm intention to settle the Dniester conflict by exceptionally political means. Such approach, he said, finds no support of Tiraspol leaders, who keep on insisting that two independent and equal-right states exist in the region.

The speaker explained the situation by "the crime and corruption which the Tiraspol leaders are in," and by "mass-scale human right violations." For examples, he referred to the unlawful imprisonment of Ilie Ilascu, deputy of the Moldovan Parliament, prohibition to use the Latin script in teaching the Moldovan language in Dniester, etc.

Reporting on the course of economic and democratic reforms, Petru Lucinschi underlined that Moldova needs these processes to be backed, including by the European Parliament.

Elizabeth Schroedter expressed readiness of the Europarliament to render such an assistance, having pointed out the necessity to work out and sign in near future the Treaty on Cooperation and Partnership between the forum and the Moldovan Parliament.

The delegation will go to Tiraspol Wednesday, where they will familiarize themselves with the situation there, and meet with local leaders.

Snegur Leaves For Visit to Hungary

AU1804192795 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1830 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 18/4/1995—An official Moldovan delegation headed by President Mircea Snegur left for a visit to Hungary Tuesday [18 April] afternoon. The delegation includes heads of crucial ministries and members of Parliament.

During the visit, the sides will sign the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between the two nations, as well as agreements on double taxation avoidance, on promotion and reciprocal protection of investment, on cooperation in culture, air transport, protocol of intentions in the field of agriculture, and some other documents.

Before the departure, the minister of foreign affairs, Mihai Popov, highly praised the Moldovan-Hungarian relations, having stressed that the two states back each other at the international arena, and Moldova is grateful for the assistance it receives in its striving to be integrated into European structures.

Mihai Popov expressed confidence that the visit to Budapest will give a new impulse to the bilateral relations. He said, in very near future Moldova will open its embassy in Budapest. So far, the Moldovan charge d'affaires has been working in Hungary.

Economic relations between Moldova and Hungary have been developing on the basis of an inter-governmental treaty signed on June 26, 1992 in Budapest. Last year, Hungary was on the 12th position among all Moldovan trade partners, and the trade volume between the two states amounted to $9,625,000, including Moldovan exports worth $2.5 million.

At present, 8 registered Moldovan-Hungarian joint ventures operate in electric engineering, agriculture, and production of construction materials.

Snegur: Local Elections 'Particularly Significant'

AU1804180595 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 17/4/1995—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has named the last Sunday's local elections as "particularly significant," for they were held for the first time ever on the multi-party basis, and the electorate had a possibility to express their will in a most democratic way.

"In the conditions of economy de-centralization and at solving social problems in the localities, it is extremely important that local administration bodies are formed of real professionals who meet the present-day requirements," Snegur said Sunday morning at "his" polling station in downtown Chisinau.

Answering INFOTAG's question about his "voting preferences," Snegur replied with a smile that he voted "...for those forces which I like most. And I was not driven by their election pledges, but by my personal impressions from my acquaintance with the candidates."

When asked about the enquiry he had sent to the Constitutional Court and the draft law concerning altering Article 13 of the Constitution, the president replied that he proceeded from the consultations he held on the issue and "from the necessity that scientific truth should triumph." Answering a question whether this signifies that the official language in Moldova will again be Romanian and not Moldovan, the head of state said that the document he had prepared would most probably lead to that.

Mircea Snegur considers that the socio-political situation in Moldova is stable.

"The one month long presence of students at the Central Square is also an indicator of our society's democratism. Certainly, it would have been nice to find a compromise from the very beginning. But in the long run, the students returned to their class rooms. The strain has been

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relaxed, and we hope it will not appear again, because we are solving their problems and seeking to meet their demands," Snegur said.

"There are things, however, which make us think deeply. In particular, this is the unlawful Dniester referendum on the Russian Army presence, and the stance of certain Russian political circles which causes many questions. We proceed from the stance of official Moscow—the president, government and Federal Assembly—which was recently confirmed in Chisinau by Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Council of the Federation. We hope the promises he made shall be implemented in practice," Mircea Snegur stressed.

Socialist Party Leader Satisfied With Election Results

AU1804180695 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 17/4/1995—The chairman of the Socialist Party, Valeriu Senic, expressed satisfaction about the results of the local elections. He said to INFOTAG that, according to preliminary data, the Socialist Unity Bloc is holding the second position in general, after the Agrarian Democratic Party, and in some localities the Bloc is the winner.

"We shall try our best to do everything not to upset the expectations of our voters. Those people who voted for us one year ago at the parliamentary elections can already understand they were right," Senic said.

He expressed regret that the elections were null and void in several localities, in particular in Chisinau, where the Bloc was supported by 35 percent voters who came to polling stations.

"Experience shows that repeated voting will hardly be a success. Most probably, the citizens' activity will be even lower. In such a situation, leaders are supposed to be nominated by special decrees. That's a pity, for any nomination bears an element of dictatorship. And any dictatorship generates population's protest and disobedience," Senic said.

Communists Win Local Elections in Gagauzia

AU1804201795 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1830 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 18/4/1995—Communists have won 16 of 27 seats in the Comrat areal executive committee, INFOTAG was told by Vasiliy Neikovchen, leader of the Gagauz communists.

In his words, 29 percent electorate voted for the Socialist Unity Bloc, and 13 percent for the Alliance of Democratic Forces.

In villages of the Comrat area, the vote distribution was as follows: 28 percent for communists, 20 percent for the Socialist Unity Bloc, 7 percent for the Agrarian Democratic Party, and 3 percent for independent candidates.

Communists Ready To Cooperate With Socialists Locally

AU1804201895 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1430 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 18/4/1995—For the sake of real practical deeds, the Moldovan Communist Party is ready to form factions with the Socialist Unity Bloc to work jointly in municipal councils, party leader Vladimir Voronin said to INFOTAG.

In his opinion, such a cooperation is possible in the town of Balti, for instance.

He believes, elections in Chisinau failed because "Moldovan leaders and city bosses were not interested in them. They were definitely aware that their positions in the city are very weak. That is why the ruling Agrarian Democratic Party, whose ticket included the names of Chisinau Mayor and all the 5 sector chiefs, were interested to have no elections in the capital city," Voronin said.

He is confident that the repeated voting will be also null and void. In his opinion, in such a situation everything should be started from the very beginning again in three months' time. However, the Moldovan legislation does not envisage such a procedure. "This is one more indication that the Law on Local Elections is non-democratic and superficial," the communist leader emphasized.

Socialist Party Chief Opposes Romanian as Official Language

LD1804205495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, April 18 (Interfax)—The chairman of the Socialist Party of Moldova, Valeriy Senik, has criticized the legislative initiative by Moldovan President Mircea Snegur to amend article 13 of the republic's Constitution.

Prior to this, Snegur proposed Moldova's official language be Romanian rather than Moldovan "in the interests of the triumph of scientific actuality."

In an interview with Interfax Tuesday, Senik doubted the possibility of parliament adopting the draft law. The parliamentary factions of the Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova and the Socialist Unity were unlikely to vote in its favor, he added.

Senik remarked that "the Constitution has always stipulated Moldova's official language as Moldovan. As many as 84 out of 104 deputies of the current parliament were elected to legislature as they unanimously supported the existence of the Moldovan language and the Moldovan people," he said.

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Senik emphasized that the pro-Romanian Popular Front of Moldova "has been canvassing signatures for revising the Constitution, but cannot collect the 200,000 signatures required for a referendum."

According to Senik, "it would be best to write down in the Constitution that the republic's official language is Moldovan, the same as Romanian," as Moldovan Parliamentary Chairman Petr Luchinskiy proposed earlier.

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Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev on Ethnic Issues, Referendum

LD1804220295 Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Apr 95 pp 1,2

[President Nursultan Nazarbayev interview by KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA editor-in-chief Grigoriy Dildyayev: "It is again time to seek advice from the people, to receive their mandate. Everything will be as the people say."]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dildyayev] Nursultan Abishevich, obviously we should start with a general assessment of the present situation. We have had plenty of comment, but a shortage of your personal conclusions, intentions, and forecasts. Many people are confused by the avalanche of events; some dismay is being felt on the eve of the first-ever referendum in Kazakhstan's history. By the way, the officials are not confused: this newspaper has been engulfed by a wave of "comments" expressing unanimous support and approval. The old style is being laid down on top of today's very complicated and absolutely new situation.

[Nazarbayev] It is important to understand that we have lived through a certain stage, and we should think through all our achievements and losses. What is on the surface and tangible, what is being judged? Elections upon elections, no concrete policy or program of reforms, parliaments depart one after the other. Meanwhile, life is getting worse. Look, they say, this is what we have come to...

What, strictly speaking, have we come to? It is time, as they say, to consult everyone.

The people of Kazakhstan put their trust in me in 1991. This has helped me throughout this period. Thanks to this, we have solved a lot of problems. It has not been very easy to begin to create our own statehood, to learn to live independently. We have had to evaluate, to doubt, and to take difficult decisions. But I always knew that the people were backing me, I had their trust. Now what do we have? The main thing is that we have managed to preserve peace and interethnic accord. This was a complicated process. We remember and know what we have gone through: the unified country [Soviet Union] had gone, the people became discomforted, there were attempts to provoke inter-ethnic conflict. But we followed the only right path, and put no restrictions on civil freedoms. Could we have pursued a different policy? Yes, we could. What policy? The various countries of the world conduct three types of ethnic policy. There are examples where the non-indigenous population has been driven out, openly threatened and ordered to leave the country—you yourself can continue this range. Next, the toughening of legislation regarding representatives of other ethnic groups. Here in Kazakhstan nobody has been made a second-class person. Need it be explained that any other way would bring the country to the point of explosion? A number of countries attach no significance to ethnic issues at all, hoping that they will disappear of their own accord. We could not chose this way either—these issues would not disappear of their own accord in Kazakhstan. We are seeking accord and trust among the peoples, although during these years there were attempts to thrust different ethnic policy on me. Today it can be also heard that not everything is that cloudless and stable in Kazakhstan. But what do we have—has there been a war, or serious ethnic conflicts, tanks on the city streets?

[Dildyayev] Save us and protect...

[Nazarbayev] We have managed to avoid the sad fate of many. This was the main task. And say what you like, stability in the state is based on the everyday painstaking activities of all its structures, national cultural centers and many personalities, who see in it the major condition for our country's survival.

Law and order—there is no state without these two notions; it cannot live without them. I have always said I am in favor of a dictatorship—the dictatorship of the law. So we had to undertake it. We undertook it. However, we started introducing order, and we sometimes hear: why do lads with machine guns walk the streets and harass people? And is it democracy when Kazakh citizens are being killed (last year 4,000 people were killed)? We have to get the people's vote of confidence for these efforts to impose order. I will go on firmly carrying out such a struggle against crime.

Let us say once again where our troubles stem from. You remember what I was fighting for when the USSR was disintegrating, don't you? I was against the demolition of the single economic space, but this living organism was broken up nonetheless; this is where the cause of all our problems lies. And, for example, we know that the Czechs and Slovaks adopted laws on partition while maintaining all the ties between the enterprises before separating. Unfortunately, everything happened differently in our case.

I will remind you that all the integration initiatives in the CIS, right up to the Eurasian Union, which to my mind would suit everyone, all came from Kazakhstan. We are seeking close integration options with our neighbors, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan, because there is scope for destabilizing potential, and what potential! Uzbeks and Kazakhs live in mixed communities near the borders, and there are eternal disputes over water for kitchen gardens. An ordinary ax-fight can lead to a drama. That is why I am trying to form the interrelations with all neighbors, with Russia and the People's Republic of China. Internal stability, stability around Kazakhstan—that is what we need. One thing depends on another.

Not everything in such an integration policy is simple. Some people say that Nazarbayev is surrendering the country's sovereignty and independence. I will not comment in detail on these words. I will only remind you that

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we have guarantees of security and of the integrity of our territory from the United States, Great Britain, Russia, and China. Recently the U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry visited Almaty. He confirmed that the United States will fully meet its obligations to Kazakhstan. In that case we must boldly go for integration, as it will bring us development.

[Dildyayev] I recall that you spoke much about the opposition and your attitude to it in an interview last winter.

[Nazarbayev] Do we have an opposition? If we are talking about the existence of serious alternative programs for Kazakhstan's development, or about the competitiveness of these programs drafted by parties and movements, then there is no such opposition. One should not confuse notions of a multiparty system with an opposition. There are many parties in Kazakhstan and they all operate freely. As for the opposition political groups, this is not my fault at all that they are not respected by the people. I have always supported the creation of parties here, and I took part in creating the Socialist Party, the People's Congress of Kazakhstan, the Union of People's Unity of Kazakhstan, and other parties. I wanted them to become really independent, take part in public life, and perhaps form an opposition block. There is no democracy without opposition.

I often hear the question: why do we need a referendum? Issues of state importance with clear wording to which one can give a simple yes or no answer are always submitted to a referendum, that is to a national vote, which is the supreme manifestation of democracy in all democratic countries.

We face the task of reforming the economy and political structure of the country. These are not simple problems. In practice, resolving them has led to many disputes, including conclusions about instability, and some people are calling the people's confidence in their president into question. Let us dot our "i's" by way of a referendum.

[Dildyayev] You have no doubt heard the voices of those who say that Nazarbayev does not want the 1996 elections, haven't you?

[Nazarbayev] Yes, I have. The most interesting thing is that the people who say this are those who have been literally shouting for two years now that a referendum on confidence in the president is needed. Today they are singing another tune: it turns out that they do not need a referendum, but they need Nazarbayev for some purpose. Real changeability of opinion is seen here. And again, if, God willing, we withstand everything and strengthen and develop stability—and I do believe in this—then I would prefer to hold elections in 1996. You know what should not be forgotten? Votes are divided in elections, there is an opportunity to express a preference for one or another contender, but in a referendum the question is clear: confidence or no confidence. You must admit that this is more responsible than going for general elections. The man who thinks only about personal authorities, moreover in crisis conditions when everything is aggravated, will certainly not undertake this step. I have done so. Yet they again talk about my "usurpation" and forget that I assumed this responsibility after difficult consideration, which I will not conceal.

There is nothing higher than a national referendum. It is an expression of the will of all Kazakh citizens. And whatever the people say will go. This is the most necessary and important assessment for me now.

But it would be an expensive pleasure to hold a referendum for its own sake alone. The main thing is that it must assist in creating conditions for moving the economy forward and bringing Kazakhstan quickly out of crisis. I think the people understand what is the more important: to improve life or to satisfy somebody's political ambitions. The people are tired of economic muddle. Predictability is needed in policy, not just for one or one-and-half years but even for five years.

Today the first signs of stabilization have appeared, but we have to solve three major problems: to adopt clear-cut and just economic laws to support the home goods producer. We need to destroy crime, organized crime above all. We need to solve constitutional matters precisely, in order to avoid senseless political fighting. If the country gets involved in a two-year-long election race with criticism from left and right, for regional, clan and other causes, it will take us far out of our way.

I cannot but react as well to the parliamentary crisis which we experienced recently. Yes, in this case the law triumphed, which is a bright sign that we are building a law-based state. There were many comments to the effect that the president should have waived the law, chosen "political expediency" and taken the side of the Supreme Council. "But we support you, Nursultan Abishevich," the deputies said when I used to come to them during their last days. "Put it to the vote and we will change the constitution right now, to suit you." Can you believe it?

[Nazarbayev] And speaking frankly, I did not think about a referendum until the session of the Assembly of the Peoples of Kazakhstan spoke about it. A total of 29 deputies raised this issue. I was simply stunned. They adopted the resolution and handed it over to me. It is impossible to ignore the opinion of the Assembly - today it expresses the view of the parties and public movements, veterans' organizations, creative unions and so on.

[Dildyayev] What will happen after the referendum?

[Nazarbayev] Kazakhstan is a state with great potential, and we can and must lead a better life. Real progress will definitely come as soon as we overcome this transitional period. This is not just my opinion. We cannot count on the fact that the course of events will change everything by itself; some effort must be made. The main condition

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is that we must travel this path in a stable situation, counting on the consistent development of democracy.

The strategic goals, I think, are not a cause of confusion to anyone - we are not inventing anything new, we are following a path trodden by many states. Reforms are never possible without pain. But this does not mean that we should repeat all the mistakes committed by others. We must try to avoid them.

Everyone, including many leading think-tanks, believe that the two countries in the CIS that have the most favorable conditions and prospects for carrying out transformations are Russia and Kazakhstan. I do not tire of repeating that Kazakhstan's principal distinctive feature is its political stability, which we must cherish as much as possible.

What is to be done in the near future? I have set the government the task of in future not allowing pension and wage payment arrears to mount up for workers as envisaged by the budget. Moreover, by October this year the average level of pensions and wages of people involved in the activities of state organizations will have risen by twenty percent. The effectiveness of social protection directly addressed to veterans, pensioners, large families, disabled people, widows, orphans, students and other socially vulnerable strata is to be increased. The state will take care of the cost of retraining and reeducating workers who might find themselves left temporarily without a job. Unemployment allowances will be tripled.

Measures irrevocably to curb inflation will be put into effect. In future, the growth in consumer prices not be allowed to exceed 1-1.5 percent a month. The tenge will remain stable in relation to hard currencies. Bank interest rates will fall to a level where it becomes profitable to raise credits to develop production.

We will start indexing people's savings deposited in savings banks as of 1 January or 1 August 1992 [as published]. The concrete amounts will be calculated for each depositor. Certainly, not within one year, but gradually, during 1997-98 we will start paying people back what they have lost. We will find funds to implement the housing program and grant long-term credits to interested parties who want to buy or build their own houses.

In order to breathe new life into production, taxes will be cut, and significantly too. All those economic laws, the passage of which was postponed and resulted in slowing us down last year, will quickly be implemented. I can firmly guarantee that bank interest rates will be reduced. We shall take the strongest measures to curb economic crime, first and foremost corruption and fraud. We will toughen control over the activities of all sorts of financial trust companies, such as the notorious Smagulov and Co [Kazakh financial scandal]. We will erect a tough barrier in front of those who produce and sell low-quality products and especially foodstuffs, which pose a threat to the people's life and health.

Order will be restored in privatization, the course of which often gives rise to fair and adverse criticism. We will get rid of the vicious practice of payment arrears for agricultural products bought by the state. From now on the state will settle peasants' accounts at once, and the producers of goods will be free to sell whatever is left over. It is envisaged gradually to support shepherd and farming enterprises, especially in faraway districts.

All government bodies have been given strict instructions to ensure the activity of schools, hospitals and cultural institutions. The issue does not revolve around financing, but around putting an end to unlimited authority to the asset-stripping privatization [prikhvatizatsiya] of clubs, schools, and hospitals. We will definitely retain the accessibility and the opportunity to receive free secondary education in state education institutions. We will ensure access to higher education on the basis of competition in state higher institutions. We are obliged to guarantee access to free medical care in state health care organizations for our citizens.

[Dildyayev] Nursultan Abishevich, how will the key issues you put to the vote in the Supreme Council [parliament] be resolved? The issues which are on the tip of everybody's tongues - private land ownership, languages, statehood...

[Nazarbayev] I spend much time thinking about this, and think aloud in front of various audience. In general my quest and my views on these truly burning topics are known. They are based on my wish to find the golden mean, to narrow the gap between extremes, and take into account all the specific features of our country. I am inclined to think now that Kazakhstan's people themselves must give the answer to these questions. I am talking about the constitutional structure and thus it is possible and indeed most likely that we need a nationwide vote.

[Dildyayev] Can this be understood as meaning that the referendum mechanism in Kazakhstan will be sorted out and start working?

[Nazarbayev] And why does it have to be a one-off affair? We have constitutional reforms ahead of us, and the decisions must be taken by the people and not by officials. Holding referendums has become established in the practice of many countries all over the world on fundamental issues of building statehood.

[Dildyayev] Certainly, high-ranking foreign guests visiting you have also been asking: will there be a parliament in Kazakhstan? And when?

[Nazarbayev] Of course they are asking. I reply to them that of course there will be one. There will be the parliament the country needs. I have already talked about it. We need a hard working, bicameral parliament involved strictly in law-making. There is no need to reinvent the wheel there. The right of presidential veto and to dissolve parliament have been approved by world

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practice, as has, on the other hand, the institution of presidential impeachment. We need to strengthen this through the law. And when will elections be held to the new parliament? Many advise me not to rush the event... We have allowed the prestige of legislative power to decline dangerously, and this cannot be a cause of indifference to me as president. I think parliament should emerge after the electoral legislation has been renewed. The elections will take place somewhere towards the end of the coming autumn, or the beginning of winter. We will sort out the harvest campaign, and then...

Vice President Urges Russia To Ratify Citizenship Measures

LD1804192995 Almaty Kazakh Radio First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During his visit to Moscow Kazakh Vice President Yerik Asanbayev met Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation. They exchanged views on a wide range of issues connected with the further development of Kazakh-Russian cooperation.

Yerik Asanbayev emphasized that an agreement on a simplified procedure for obtaining citizenship of the two countries and the treaty on the legal status of Russian and Kazakh citizens permanently living in each other's country, which were signed in January this year during a working meeting between President Nursultan Nazarbayev and President Boris Yeltsin, had been ratified by the Kazakh parliament in good time. After the parliament was dissolved following the Constitutional Court's decision, they were confirmed by corresponding decrees issued by the head of state and carrying the force of constitutional laws.

However, these documents have still not been ratified by the Russian side, and have therefore not yet come into force. This prolongs the uncertainty about matters relating to citizenship. In this context it was stated that it would be desirable to speed up ratification of the above documents.

In response, the Russian parliament speaker said that once they have been considered by the appropriate Duma committees, the documents will be put to the vote for ratification in the near future.

The vice president also briefed Ivan Rybkin on the development of the internal political situation in the republic, the first session of the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan which took place recently, and the forthcoming republican referendum on prolonging President Nazarbayev's term of office until 1 December 2000, which is scheduled for 29 April.

Tair Mansurov , Kazakhstan's ambassador to Russia, and Kazakh writer Ivan Shegolyukhin took part in the meeting.

Nazarbayev Meets With Russian Chief Editors

MM1804141395 Moscow TRUD in Russian 18 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Oleg Kvyatkovskiy: "Meeting with Nazarbayev"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The leaders of TRUD, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, OBSHCHAYA GAZETA, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, and also NTV met with Nursultan Nazarbayev in the Kazakhstani capital.

The Russian editors were particularly interested in the reasons behind the announcement of a referendum in Kazakhstan on extending President Nazarbayev's authority through the year 2000, the Kazakhstani leader's opinion of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, and his attitude to present complex processes taking place both in the republic and within the Commonwealth. The conversation touched on matters pertaining to the formation of a common economic and information area and other acute interstate problems. The chief editors also intend to meet with other CIS leaders.

President Defines Commodity Exchanges

LD1704221495 Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 1

[Edict issued by President Nursultan Nazarbayev]

[FBIS Translated Text] I am issuing the present edict in accordance with Article 1 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 10 December 1993 "On Temporarily Delegating Additional Powers to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and to the Heads of Local Administrations," and with the aim of determining common legal grounds for the creation and operation of commodity exchanges, the conduct of trading on them, and state regulation of the activity of commodity exchanges in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Section I. General provisions

Article 1. The concept of a commodity exchange

1. A commodity exchange (henceforth to be known as an exchange in this text) is a juridical entity based on any form of property, which conducts organizational and coordinating activities on the wholesale trade of echange commodities by regularly holding public trading in a certain place and at a certain time according to fixed rules for exchange trading.

2. An exchange is an entity, income from the services of which are used to pay for its expenditures and its information, its technical and social development, and its infrastructure.

Article 2. The sphere of activity of a commodity exchange

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1. An exchange conducts organizational and coordinating activities directly connected with wholesale commodities trading at the exchange.

2. An exchange is prohibited from conducting trade, trade- intermediary, or any other activity not directly connected with exchange trading.

Article 3. The exchange commodity

1. An exchange commodity is a commodity of a certain kind and quality which has not been withdrawn from circulation, including export permission (quotas and licenses), or a standard contract or bill of lading for such a commodity which the exchange accepts for exchange trading according to established procedure.

2. An exchange commodity put up for public trading by an exchange must meet the requirements of standard documentation and existing standards.

3. The list of exchange commodities and the minimum volume of consignments which can be sold only through open commodity exchanges have been approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Article 4. Exchange deal

1. An exchange deal is an agreement (accord, contract) registered by an exchange during exchange trading and concluded between participants in the exchange trading with respect to an exchange commodity.

The procedure for registering and drawing up exchange deals is established by an exchange in accordance with existing legislation.

2. Deals concluded at an exchange in an incorrect manner are not subject to the guarantees of the exchange.

Article 5. Forms of exchange deal

During trading on the exchange, participants in the trade may conclude deals connected:
- with the mutual transfer of rights and responsibilities with respect to real commodities;
- with the mutual transfer of rights and responsibilities with respect to real commodities with an adjourned term of delivery (forward deals);
- with the mutual transfer of rights and responsibilities with respect to standard contracts for future delivery of an exchange commodity (futures deals);
- with conceding rights to the future transfer of rights and responsibilities regarding exchange commodities or a contract for supplying exchange commodities (options contracts);
- and with exchange commodities or contracts established under the rules of exchange trading.

Article 6. Participants in exchange trading

1. Participants in exchange trading are defined as brokerage organizations, brokers, dealers, and occasional visitors.

2. Exchange trading is accomplished by:
- carrying out exchange deals on behalf of a client and at his expense; on behalf of a client and at the participant's [trader's] expense; on a participant's behalf and at the expense of a client (broker's activity);
- carrying out deals on a participant's behalf and at his expense with the aim of subsequently reselling on the exchange (dealer's activity);
- carrying out deals by occasional visitors on their own behalf and at their own expense.

Article 7. Branches and other subdivisions of a commodity exchange

1. An exchange has the right to create its own branches and other subdivisions on the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan and beyond it, in accordance with existing legislation; the present edict and the legislation of the host countries apply to their activities.

2. An exchange is prohibited from creating its own brokerage organizations. The personnel of an exchange cannot be participants in trading.

Article 8. Exchange unions, associations, and other commodity exchange groupings

Exchanges can create, on a voluntary basis and with the consent or decision given by a general meeting of their founders in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, exchange unions, associations, and other groupings possessing the rights of a juridical entity to coordinate their activity, protect their common interests and implement joint programs, including organization of joint trading.

Article 9. Restrictions on using the words "commodity exchange" in the titles of juridical entities.

Juridical entities whose activities do not meet the requirements set by Articles 1 and 2 of the present decree do not have the right to carry out exchange trading or to use the words "commodity exchange" in their titles, and cannot register a title with the state using these words in any combination.

Section II. The creation and cessation of commodity exchange activities

Article 10. The creation of an exchange

An exchange is regarded as having been created and acquires the status of a juridical entity on the day its founding documents are registered.

Article 11. Types of commodity exchanges

According to the degree of holding public tradings, exchanges can be:
- closed, where only members of the exchange take part in trading;
- open, where visitors are allowed to participate in trading.

Article 12. The founders of a commodity exchange

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An exchange can be founded by juridical and natural persons who are not forbidden by legislation to carry out entrepreneurship activities on the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Article 13. Statutes of the commodity exchange

The followings are obligatorily to be indicated in an exchange's statutes:
- the title, type, and location of the exchange;
- the procedure for becoming a member of the exchange, and for suspension and cessation of membership;
- the definition of its organizational and legal form;
- the exchange's main tasks;
- the rights and obligations of members of the exchange and other participant in the exchange's trading;
- the responsibility of the exchange's members as regards property;
- the size of the authorized fund;
- a list and the procedure for forming the funds created by the exchange;
- the exchange's management structures and supervisory bodies, their functions and competencies, and the procedure for them to make decisions;
- the procedure for approving the exchange's trading regulations;
- the procedure for settling disputes between participants in exchange trading concerning the transactions and the operational organization and coordination of the exchange, its branches and other separate departments;
- the procedure for halting the exchange's activities.

Article 14. Exchange licensing

1. Exchange activities may take place only on condition that an exchange license is held.

2. An exchange license is issued to an exchange by the Republican Commission on Commodity Exchanges no later than a month from the application date provided that the following conditions are met:
- the founding documents and regulations of the exchange trade meet the requirements of the present decree and of other legislation or normative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- the proportion of the authorized fund that has been paid makes up no less 70 percent of the declared sum.

3. The procedure for issuing, terminating, and suspending an exchange's license is defined by the regulations on licensing of commodity exchanges which are approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Article 15. Membership of commodity exchanges

1. Legal and natural persons, including foreigners, who acquire brokers' seats at an exchange can be members of the exchange.

2. The procedure for becoming a member of the exchange and for suspension and cessation of membership is defined in the exchange's statutes.

Admission to membership of an exchange is confirmed by an appropriate certificate which is issued by the exchange's council.

3. The following cannot be members of an exchange:
- employees of that or any other commodity exchange;
- any kind of organization if its officials, including the heads of its branches or other separate departments, are employees of the above exchange;
- public, religious, and charity associations (organizations) and foundations;
- natural persons who under current legislation cannot carry out entrepreneur activity.

4. Members of an exchange have the right:
- to participate in public trading sessions irrespective of the type of exchange;
- to participate in the work of the exchange's administrative bodies with the right of a consultative vote;
- to delegate the execution of their powers to participate in exchange trading to only one legal or natural person. The contract of delegation is to be registered at the exchange. Transferral of the right to participate in exchange trading in any other form is not permitted.

Article 16. The commodity exchange's bodies

1. The bodies of a commodity exchange are: the general assembly of founders of the exchange, the exchange council, and the auditing commission.

The general assembly of founders is the supreme body of the exchange and ensures observance of all the rights and obligations of the exchange and its members.

The exchange council is the executive body of the exchange.

2. The functions and powers of the exchange's bodies and the order of passing decisions are determined by the constituent documents of the exchange.

Article 17. The rules of exchange trading

1. The rules of exchange trading must envisage:
- the functions of the main structural subdivisions of the exchange;
- the procedure for informing participants about upcoming open public trading sessions;
- the procedure for conducting these auctions at the exchange;
- the types of exchange deal;
- the procedure for registering them and accounting for them;
- the procedure for quoting the prices of the exchange's commodities;
- the procedure for informing participants in exchange trading about exchange deals at previous open public trading sessions, including the prices of the exchange deals and the quoted prices of exchange commodities;

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—the procedure for informing members of the exchange and other participants in exchange trading about commodity markets and the state of the market in exchange commodities;
—the procedure for mutual transactions between exchange members and other participants in exchange trading with regard to exchange deals;
—measures to control the pricing process at the exchange with the aim of preventing sharp rises or falls in price levels, artificial raising or lowering of prices, conspiracy, or the deliberate dissemination of false rumors designed to influence prices;
—measures to ensure order and discipline at the public trading sessions conducted by the exchange, and also the procedures and conditions for applying these measures;
—measures to ensure the observance of current legislation by members of the exchange and other participants in exchange trading;
—the list of exchange commodities;
—the list of breaches for which the exchange will fine participants in exchange trading, the sizes of these fines and the procedure for imposing them;
—payment rates for the exchange's services and the procedure for collecting them.

2. Exchanges must periodically publish in the media quotations of commodity prices derived from supply and demand.

3. Standard rules for exchange trading are confirmed by the Republican Commission on Commodity Exchanges, which is authorized so to do by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Article 18. Cessation of activity of a commodity exchange

Cessation of an exchange's activity may take place by decision of the exchange's supreme body according to the procedure established by the exchange's regulations, or on grounds envisaged by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Section III. Organization of exchange trading

Article 19. Expert examination of goods at a commodity exchange

On demand of a participant in exchange trading, an exchange is obliged to arrange an expert examination of the quality of goods sold at open public trading sessions to ensure that they conform with the regulatory documents.

Article 20. Clearing and settlement following deals at the commodity exchange

1. An exchange can set up clearing centers (chambers) which are licensed by the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan, or conclude agreements with clearing centers (chambers) licensed by the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in order to calculate the net positions of participants in exchange trading following the conclusion of deals, with the net positions subsequently transferred to an accounting institution.

The accounting institution can be a bank with which the clearing center (chamber) has concluded a separate contract for accounting.

2. A clearing center can fulfil the function of accounting institution if it receives a special licence from the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan to conduct a limited range of banking operations.

3. An exchange has the right to establish the forms, scales, and lodging procedures for the financial obligations which participants in exchange trading offer as guarantees that accounts resulting from exchange trading will be settled.

Article 21. The establishment of rates at a commodity exchange

1. An exchange has the right to independently establish:
—the rates of payments accruing to the exchange and collected from its members and other participants in exchange trading in return for services rendered by the exchange and its subdivisions;
—the scales of economic sanctions envisaged by the terms of the exchange which are imposed for breaking the exchange's statutes, the rules of exchange trading and other rules established by the exchange.

2. The exchange is not permitted to establish:
—levels and ceilings for prices of exchange goods;
—the remuneration scales charged by participants in trading for mediating in exchange deals.

3. The list of rates of service charges and commission fees levied from participants in trading sessions must be accessible to any participant in exchange trading.

Article 22. Settlement of disputes in commodity trading

1. Disputes arising from exchange deals can be considered by an arbitration commission which operates in accordance with the regulations on arbitration courts and is approved by the exchange in accordance with current legislation.

2. A ruling by the exchange's arbitration commission can be contested in court according to established procedure.

Section IV. State regulation of commodity exchanges' activity

Article 23. The Republican Commission for Commodity Exchanges

1. The Republican Commission for Commodity Exchanges carries out the state regulation of commodity exchanges' activity.

2. The statutes of the Republican Commission for Commodity Exchanges are to be confirmed by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

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Article 24. Functions of the Republican Commission for Commodity Exchanges

The functions of the republican commission are:
- to issue licenses to exchanges;
- to keep a register of commodity exchanges;
- to check that legislation on exchanges is adhered to;
- to study exchanges' activity and the development of exchange trading;
- to prepare methodological recommendations for the drafting of exchange documents;
- to approve the standard rules for exchange trading.

Article 25. The powers of the Republican Commission for Commodity Exchanges

1. The Republican Commission for Commodity Exchanges is authorized:
- to work out and submit to the Cabinet of Ministers proposals on improving existing legislation on commodity exchanges;
- to impose sanctions on an exchange such as suspension or annulment of an exchange licence if it contravenes this decree;
- to appoint a state inspector at an exchange;
- to arrange checks on the financial and economic activity of exchanges and of the participants in exchange trading;
- to send to court the documentation for applying sanctions against those exchanges and exchange members who breach current legislation; and if any sign of a crime is detected, to send the documentation to the law enforcement agencies;

2. The republican commission, and its officials and employees, are prohibited from divulging information containing commercial secrets relating to the activity of commodity exchanges, exchange brokers or participants in exchange trading, except in cases prescribed by current legislation.

Article 26. The powers of a state inspector at a commodity exchange

A state inspector at an exchange conducts direct checks on the adherence of the exchange and the participants in exchange trading to current legislation. The inspector also has the right:
- to attend trading at an exchange;
- to take part in general assemblies of the founders of an exchange, its sections (departments, units) with the right to a consultative vote;
- to gain access to information about the activity of an exchange, including the minutes of any meetings and sessions of the bodies controlling and running an exchange, and decisions taken by them;
- to put forward proposals and make recommendations to the management of an exchange;
- to put forward proposals and make recommendations to the Republican Commission for Commodity Exchanges;
- to check that the exchange and its members comply with decisions made by the Republican Commission for Commodity Exchanges.

Article 27. Guarantees of the independence of commodity exchanges

1. State administration and government bodies are not allowed to interfere in the activity of exchanges, except for cases prescribed by current legislation.

2. Those state administration bodies or officials of these bodies whose actions cause exchange deals to fail or cause damage to the parties to a deal shall be made answerable in the manner prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Article 28. Taxation of commodity exchanges and of participants in exchange trading

Taxation of exchanges and participants in exchange trading, as well as taxation of other participants in exchange trading, are to be conducted in the manner prescribed by the current legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Article 29. Records and statistical accountability of commodity exchanges

1. An exchange keeps operational records and accounts of the results of its activity and maintains statistical accountability.

2. The forms of statistical accountability and the procedure for exchanges to submit their accounts are to be established by the state statistics bodies.

3. The officials of an exchange shall be answerable in the manner prescribed by the law for distortion of state statistical accountability.

This edict comes into force on the day of its publication.
[Signed] Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
[Dated] Almaty, 7 April 1995.

Decree by the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan carrying the force of law "On the Annulment of Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan"

In accordance with Article 1 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 10 December 1993 On Temporarily Delegating Additional Powers to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and to the Heads of Local Administrations, I decree that:

1. The following are rescinded:

The Law of the Kazakh SSR of 13 June 1991 No. 663 On Commodity Exchanges (Chronicles of the Supreme Soviet of the Kazakh SSR, 1991, No. 25, p 314);

Decree by the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, carrying the force of law, of 20 March 1994, No. 1604 On Commodity Exchanges (Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 1994, No. 14, p 131)

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2. The present decree comes into force from the day of publication.
[Signed] Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan,
[Dated] Almaty, 7 April 1995

Resolution of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the implementation of the decree of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, carrying the force of law, On Commodity Exchanges

With the aim of implementing the decree of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, carrying the force of law, On Commodity Exchanges, I resolve that:

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan is to be instructed to:
- —approve the regulations on the Republican Commission for Commodity Exchanges and licensing commodity exchanges;
- —bring decisions of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan into line with the decree of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, carrying the force of law, On Commodity Exchanges.

[Signed] Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan,
[Dated] Almaty, 7 April 1995

Possible Aims, Effects of Upcoming Referendum Viewed

954F2094A Almaty KARAVAN in Russian No 16, 14 Apr 95 p 3

[Article by Leonid Sokolskiy: "What Does Future Hold For Us in the Year 2000?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **In two weeks, we will be invited—not to elections but to vote. Like in the good old times, when a neighbor's question "Have you voted?" was considered polite conversation, but the answer "For who?" would have been improper and even dangerous.**

We will be handed ballots, which will contain only one question and one candidate. And on top of that we do not even know this candidate's election program. Because it is unlikely that N. Nazarbayev will reaffirm loyalty to the "old course": Even the presidential team's designated optimists cannot call this course popular. The country remains in a state of crisis; production continues to fall; and theft and corruption are acquiring truly all-out, across-the-board proportions. Hundreds of thousands inhabitants leave Kazakhstan every year. They are also making a choice; they are also voting—with their feet, leaving us increasingly less of this intangible but irreplaceable substance called hope.

The only achievement of the past few years that can undoubtedly be counted on the plus side of the current authorities is that there are no overt ethnic clashes in the republic. Which actually means a lot.

What else? What new ideas, plans, and goals is Nursultan Nazarbayev bringing to the referendum? Nobody knows. Some hope that the president wants to extend his powers only so he would get a chance to straighten out his entourage and remove from it dishonest people who are not letting him conduct reform in the interests of the people. Let us hope to God this is the case. But why do it so much behind the scenes, in secret from us all? Would we not support our president in this fair cleansing struggle?

There are, however, other considerations, far from equally charitable toward N. Nazarbayev. And they are being voiced not only by professional political scientists. At the level of household gossip in the environment of an information vacuum, completely wild and exotic "versions" inevitably come to life.

These days, one might find an honest and nonopportunistic forecast regarding the future of our country in an English or German newspaper, but certainly not in KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA; one can hear such on Radio Liberty, but not in a KHABAR news item. Our press has already—just in case—withdrawn into a protective shell, and immediately the nauseatingly familiar state of affairs has returned, when you can catch Kazakhstani news and commentary deep at night on various "Voices," and during the day hear nothing but the beat of the drum in the local mass media.

It is easy to accuse our colleagues in official publications of timidity. But even we in KARAVAN had to give quite serious thought to the recent amendment N. Nazarbayev's edict made to the law on the press. Now Article 5 of this law informs us that it is forbidden for the mass media to incite not only national ethnic or race (which is absolutely justified and understandable) but also social (!) intolerance.

In the opinion of our legal counsel, this amazing amendment may create approximately this kind of situation. For instance, if we report that businessman X received a preferential loan using his connections in the Cabinet of Ministers, both the businessman and the prime minister can sue the newspaper. And they will have a good chance of winning the case, even if the article turns out to be completely valid and based on verified facts. Because the court may interpret it as "inciting social intolerance" with respect to both entrepreneurs and the government...

It is even easier to imagine the reaction of the court and the procuracy to journalists' critical remarks regarding the president.

Thus the grace and peace, resembling those in sunny Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, that immediately descended on our own press are rooted not just in the genetic peculiarities of the Soviet press.

This would be a good time for our president's numerous advisers and consultants to jump into action. When one's opponent keeps his mouth shut out of self-preservation, one can very easily and convincingly

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devise arguments "in favor of," build without interference delicate, light constructs, and rouse and convince the lethargic, apolitical electorate. But even this is not being done! Issue after issue, official newspapers run headings like: "Miners support the president," "Guarantor of peace and tranquility" (guess who?), and even "Referendum: Supreme Manifestation of Democracy" (KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA, 11 April).

One gets the impression that those who conceived of the idea of the referendum **do not find it expedient** to seriously convince the electorate, to truly work with it. Or perhaps they do not know how to, after all?

It is not difficult to predict the response: apathy and great indifference on the part of citizens to the upcoming "manifestation of democracy." A recently conducted mini-poll shows that most of them simply do not intend to "ruin their Saturday."

And what then? Maybe some "observers," who cynically suggested that perhaps this is precisely the idea, are not far wrong. For those who do not show up, appropriate ballots will be cast, and as a result our president may even best his Uzbek colleague, who received 99 point something percent of support in the referendum...

Such a referendum and such results will immediately place N. Nazarbayev on the same level as the Turkmenbashi and Islam Karimov. They are estimable and wise rulers, but the Kazakhstan president's political image is different from that of those presidents. Or would it already be more correct to say: "was different?" But changing one's political face is not like putting on and taking off a mask. First you lose the democratic image, and then you have to try to gain a different one...

It is beyond any doubt that Nursultan Nazarbayev would confidently win the elections in the fall of 1996, and win with a considerable lead and in conformance with strictly democratic rules.

His current rating—60 percent—is incredibly high for a presidential candidate. In the West, a candidate is considered a sure win if before the elections polls show that he is ahead of the next rival by more than 25 percent.

It is easy to calculate that even if the current president loses some 10 percent of his popular support in the next year and a half, he would still be ahead of... for instance, Olzhas Suleymenov or Gaziz Aldamzharov, who will inevitably split some of the vote—that he would still be ahead by 30 percent at a minimum...

And at the same time, his authority abroad as the second most popular, after Gorbachev, post-Soviet leader would not be damaged—on the contrary, it would be reinforced. Instead of amazement mixed with disappointment, we would see in CIS capitals the old respect that was visible in the films Moscow and Kiev journalists made about Nazarbayev.

So who advised Nursultan Abishevich to go ahead with the referendum so hastily? And on top of that without a program and with the crude "ideological support" described above in detail...

There have been historic episodes in the West too, in which a national leader appealed to the people for support. This also happened during the Great Depression in the United States. At the time, President Roosevelt called on Americans to work together in the name of America's prosperity, in the name of the prosperity of each family.

And you know, the Americans, who are generally speaking pragmatic and unsentimental, somehow really took to this idea. U.S. newspapers wrote the truth about the crisis and the mafia; the government, with the help of industrialists and bankers, fought the crisis, organized public works; and the police caught mafiosi, for all to see. And in three to four years, as envisaged, the Great Depression gave way to the Great Recovery and prosperity.

Will we be able to predict our future four years ahead? Or at least half a year?

Electoral Commission Chair on Referendum

954F2107A Almaty PANORAMA in Russian No 15, 15 Apr 95 p 3

[Interview with Central Electoral Commission Chairman Yuriy Kim by N.M.; place and date not given; under the rubric "Referendum": "It Will Be No Particular Tragedy If People Say 'No' at the Referendum—But It Will Result in Additional and Substantial Expenditures"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Central Electoral Commission [CEC] Chairman Yuriy Kim describes to PANORAMA the current situation with respect to preparations for the republic referendum on 29 April.

[Kim] Preparations are proceeding successfully. Republic newspapers have by now published the ballot form that will be used in the referendum. The ballots will be printed in Almaty and sent out, and by the end of the week or by Monday at the latest they will be in place.

On 8 April we held a conference-seminar, to which we invited local-level staff. We explained all the referendum documents and the procedures for conducting it, and answered various questions they had. There were a lot of questions, which is quite natural, since this is the first time such a political event is to be held since Kazakhstan became sovereign.

[N.M.] Yuriy Alekseyevich, from 11 to 15 April monitoring and propaganda groups, created on the order of Vice President Yerik Asanbayev, visited Kazakhstani oblasts. Did the CEC have something to do with their training?

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[Kim] The vice president indeed created such groups; they consist mainly of jurists, and are necessary for conducting educational work in the localities. Our commission prepared the documents on the referendum and some other legislative acts of the republic for these groups. Monitoring and propaganda groups will provide explanations about the referendum to analogous groups set up at the local level, and all of them together should ensure the maximum possible outreach, urging a mass turnout and voluntary participation; there should be no pressure. I think the president needs this so that he will know to what extent the people support him, and the people need this so they can express their will in the full knowledge and confidence that everything is being done in keeping with the Constitution.

[N.M.] Can you, as a jurist specializing in state organizational development, say that the actions being carried out locally by the vice president and executive bodies, which undoubtedly do put pressure on people, fall within democratic bounds? Would such steps not be impossible in elections conditions?

[Kim] First, there are no violations of democracy in this regard; there is no pressure on the part of the executive authority. The educational work is being done in order to help the population figure out the meaning of this political event. One should not try to see in this an offensive against democracy, or an encroachment on democratic rights: The authorities should know how to act, and when they act in the interests of the people, this is in fact the highest manifestation of democracy.

[N.M.] Yuriy Alekseyevich, as a professional you should foresee all potential outcomes of the referendum. What happens if the 29 April referendum produces a negative answer to the question on the ballot?

[Kim] I have no doubt that the referendum's outcome will be positive; I think that the majority of the people will agree to extend President Nazarbayev's powers. If we assume, however, that N. Nazarbayev does not get the people's consent to extend his powers, scheduled presidential elections will be held in December 1996. There is no tragedy in this, but people should know that the presidential elections campaign will involve enormous costs, considerable effort, and human resources. This carries no benefit—either political or economic—and people should have this explained to them too.

But I cannot even imagine a negative outcome to the referendum.

[N.M.] PANORAMA reported in the previous issue the amount the government intends to spend on the referendum. In our preliminary estimates the figure came to slightly more than $4 million, or slightly less than 50 cents per voter. Do you consider this money sufficient?

[Kim] Yes, we ourselves took part in projecting the necessary costs, and this amount only proves that the referendum, which is fully funded by the budget, is much cheaper than an election campaign. If we were holding elections, the budget expenditures would be at least four to five times higher, since the candidates themselves do not have serious money at their disposal.

Case of 'Dissent' Over Newspaper Examined

954F2095A Almaty KARAVAN in Russian No 16, 14 Apr 95 p 5

[Open letter by M. Tulepbayev, bureau member of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan and doctor of historical sciences: "The Foundation of Fascism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The editorial board has already reported that the authorities have finally taken measures against the newspaper KAZAKH PRAVDA, which has been kindling inter-nation discord. The most interesting thing is that the first to pay attention to this publication were not the authorities, but the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, whence came, literally on the day after the publication of the latest edition of that newspaper, the letter which we print today.**

The mass media are called the fourth estate.

In Kazakhstan, with the recurrent absence of the legislative authority, the media for this time automatically move to the third place. Formally, the media are not allotted any authoritative functions, but, as no other authority, they can influence the psyche of the individual, form public opinion. The power of the media over the individual in such periods of crisis as Kazakhstan is now experiencing gains especial strength.

In connection with this, I cannot but express my feelings about the latest issue of the newspaper KAZAKH PRAVDA. One must give Professor A. Aimbetov his due; he singlehandedly founded the newspaper KAZAKH PRAVDA and became its editor. That is a colossal labor, especially in today's conditions. But what is sown by this labor? Discord, trouble, hate. This is the conclusion I came to after reading the latest edition of KAZAKH PRAVDA, which came out this time under the name RUSSO-KAZAKH PRAVDA. Just take the selection of articles. Everything is aimed at the search for enemies. Here they found O. Suleymenov and N. Mukitanov, as well as the young entrepreneurs, for their signed "Appeal." But the most frightening thing is that Professor A. Aimbetov is searching for enemies according to nationality. And evidently, it is not fortuitous that the newspaper ran a large, two-page article by K. Zverev under the title, "I Am a Russian. I Request a Chance To Speak." I think that such an orgy of anti-Semitism might be envied by Hitlerite ideologists.

Mr. Zverev begins the narration of his meditations with a question: "Do the Kazakhs have the right, or do they not have the right, to their own national state?' And he proposes that we answer that question for some reason "through the prism of the defeat of tsarist Russia and the national home of the Russian people." What follows are exclusively matters dealing with Russia, and its main

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enemies—the Jews. Everyone, beginning with Lenin and up to today's Russian authorities, are, in his opinion, Jews. Here Mr. Zverev determines people's nationality by his personal criteria. Thus, for example, "Stalin came from a family of cobblers, and the cobblers in the Georgia of those years were all Jews." That is the way it is, and no differently.

One can reach many surprising conclusions from Mr. Zverev's awkward narrative. Thus, for example, he writes: "It is also visible to the naked eye that the anti-Russian policy of the Government of Russia has today been elevated to the rank of state policy: Just take the humiliating privatization. Look, the Jewish wise guys handed out to the native peoples of Russia two kilograms of sausage (the price of a voucher), and now they have gathered these vouchers into investment funds belonging 99 percent to that same people." If one follows Mr. Zverev's logic, then the entire government of our republic, beginning with the president, and also Messrs. Abilov, Batalov, Esinberlin, and other founders of investment funds, must without delay change a certain line in their passport, since our privatization differs little from the Russian.

To continue, it seems to me, is senseless—an empty waste of time. However, with great pleasure, Mr. Zverev, I will sign up under your words, "There is nothing to separate us; it is all our common land, our Motherland"; but on the condition that by the word "us" you mean not only Kazakhs and Russians, but also people of all other nationalities, including Jews as well, and by Motherland—not tsarist Russia, but that Motherland for whose preservation on 17 March 1991 the peoples of all the Union republics voted unequivocally.

If one classifies Mr. Zverev's article as theoretical investigation, most of the articles of the founder-editor of KAZAKH PRAVDA, Professor A. Aimbetov, I think, can be evaluated as plans for the practical resolution in Kazakhstan of the national question and the building of a state. The approach is the same. Identifying enemies. The main one, in the opinion of the professor, is B. Giller—the founder of the Karavan joint-stock company, and after him, everyone who is published in KARAVAN.

In the section "KAZAKH PRAVDA Advises the President...," as a joke, the professor proposes to the president that he appoint him chairman of the National Security Committee for only three months, and in that time he promises to bring complete order to the country, acting "a) resolutely, b) in strict accordance with the law, c) and of course, intelligently."

So what does Professor A. Aimbetov plan to do, intelligently, in the country? Here are just a few pictures: "The very first automatic weapon fire will mow down the KARAVAN bosses, if they do not clear out to Israel in good time, and together with them, the traitors to their nationality and everyone who now makes his living by political prostitution. The outflow of the 'Russian-speaking' population will take on a mass character, and millions of refugees will go throughout the world. Kazakhstan will be reminiscent of the nether world; perhaps half of the nation will perish, but the other half will live in truly their own state." This is in the event that there is an end to stable Russo-Kazakh relations.

Given another variant, Professor A. Aimbetov believes that we "will be obliged to build a totalitarian, autocratic state, with a strong apparatus of repression. We will also not forget to construct special camps, where, on economic principles, those who like to ask stupid questions will serve their time." On the basis of what laws does the professor plan to build a state in which it is not even permitted to ask questions? And who will determine whether a question is stupid or not?

I would like to ask Professor A. Aimbetov one, possibly stupid, question: "What do you think, if B. Giller and all the rest on your list are shot or exiled, will there be order in our state; will the fluctuating inter-nation opposition cease; will the birth rate exceed the death rate; will, as in the recent past, old people regularly receive their deserved pension, on which, according to today's standard, one could live a grand life; will students be able to eat their fill; will bureaucrats cease to take bribes?"

I have no doubt that the founder-editor of KAZAKH PRAVDA, after this stupid question is asked, will categorize me, too, along with Masanov and Amrekulov, among the puppets of KARAVAN. I would consider it an honor to stand in the ranks of those young, thinking, highly educated Kazakh scientists.

I will say frankly that I am not an admirer of KARAVAN. But I read it regularly. Individual articles in it may please me, but I am an opponent of a number of its sections. Twice I have had occasion to bump up against, to put it mildly, the journalistic discourtesy of KARAVAN staff members. In KARAVAN it is possible to find articles aimed at the smoothing of inter-nation conflicts, and whole rubrics that might elicit the opposite reaction. But what I like in KARAVAN is that from its materials one may follow the real, and not an imagined, dynamic of the development of some or another social processes. In November of last year, the heads of parties and movements polled by KARAVAN were unanimous in the opinion that a stable condition of inter-nation relations was being observed. But in the second half of December to the beginning of February a sharp opposition was noted. Careful study of KARAVAN materials allowed me to conclude that the opposition had been evoked by the submission by the president of the well-known three questions in the exploratory poll in the Supreme Council and their rejection by the latter.

National problems and conflicts belong in the category of the most acute and painful, and present well-nigh the most danger to society. We are accustomed to believing that the basis of these conflicts are economic and social factors. That is true. But there also exists a third—psychological—factor.

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In the psyche, such an unconscious functioning mechanism as transference has high significance. That is, the accumulation of irritation energy from conflicts that are different by nature and transferring them onto national problems. And since in our life today there is an enormous amount of disorder, the probability of attempts to blame representatives of other nationalities for all these difficulties is high.

And that is the foundation of fascism.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Calls On Deputies To Resolve Differences

LD1804210095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 18 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Askar Akayev called on deputies of both houses of the Kyrgyz parliament to resolve their differences as soon as possible.

The lower and upper house disagree on which of them has a final right to approve the government and the budget. The legislative assembly wants to be able to appoint judges, impose a martial law and form the central election and controlling commissions of parliament.

The crisis came to a head Monday when numerous members of the assembly threatened self-dissolution if the people's representative assembly does not cede the right to approve the budget and supervise its execution.

As proposed by the president, a trilateral conciliatory commission will be set up made of members of the two houses and officials of the presidential headquarters to resolve the crisis.

Before the two houses agree on power sharing and pass appropriate constitutional amendments and the president approves them, parliament cannot proceed to formation of the government.

Military Delegation Visits Troops on Tajik-Afghan Border

LD1804134395 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today a group of officers from the Ministry of Defense left for the Tajik-Afghan border, where the Kyrgyz battalion is located. The aim of the visit is to clarify, on the spot, the situation regarding the latest developments in neighboring Tajikistan. At the same time, the military delegation will deliver food and humanitarian aid to our soldiers.

Kyrgyz Involvement in Tajik Conflict Viewed

LD1904082095 Bishkek SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA in Russian 15 Apr 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Hot Issue: While Defending Foreign Soil We Should Not Give Up Our Own Land"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The spring offensive by detachments of the irreconcilable opposition has begun on the Tajik-Afghan border. Its forces have rested and trained in camps on Afghan territory throughout the winter. This was not unexpected, as it was forecast by military analysts and the media. In just a few days, 30 border guards were killed, including some from the Kazakh battalion. Fierce battles are continuing in the sector of the Khorog border detachment, which borders on the Ishkashim sector, where nearly 500 of our soldiers are serving. God has protected them so far. But their families are very worried, of course.

There will be no peace in Afghanistan itself for another 15 to 20 years. This is already clear to many political analysts and specialists on the "Afghan problem." It seems that some states neighboring that unfortunate country are not interested in peace, either. In turn, this means that for the same period, if not longer, neither will there be any lasting peace or stability in Tajikistan.

Civil war has been under way for some years now in that republic, and more than 100,000 people have perished; 300,000 have fled from their homeland. The Dushanbe regime is supported by bayonets alone, and by foreign bayonets at that: Russian, Uzbek, etc. It survives on economic support from the CIS countries. It should be recognized honestly that it survives also thanks to military and economic aid from Kyrgyzstan.

Despite our deep respect for our former unified state—the Soviet Union—its time has passed and it will never return. There is no "fraternal family" any more. Each state has its own national interests now, different from the interests of others. What are our national interests in Tajikistan? To put it another way, what profit do we expect to obtain from running the risk of being drawn into a civil war in another country? What we are defending on behalf of our people and society? Are we not mad to assist somebody for no return?

Our battalion in the Pamir mountains is there to defend the government of Emomali Rakhmanov. Of course, this is necessary for us, too. The external borders of the CIS after all are our common borders, whatever republic they belong to. Violence, drugs, arms, and an aggressive ideology could come through the ruptured border. But hang on! Are we not getting large amounts of this already? There are thousands of these militants and a whole kingdom of drug smugglers between our battalion and Kyrgyzstan. In other words, there is no advantage to us in maintaining a battalion in the foreign mountains when our own borders are transparent to everyone—both friends and enemies.

Of course, we cannot withdraw our battalion. There are agreements between the CIS countries. Russia and Uzbekistan would not allow it, and we cannot and should not quarrel with them. Nonetheless, there is no need to raise the size of the battalion, as was recently done when it was increased twofold! By whatever means possible we should avoid being drawn into Tajikistan.

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Our presence in Tajikistan should be reduced to a purely formal one, to ensure compliance with agreements and nothing more. We should choose a policy of national selfishness. There is no shame in this: All normal countries do it. God himself has called on us to do so.

Russian Defense Minister Grachev recently said (as was repeated by other members of the Russian Government): "The Tajik Government should in the future count only on its own military forces." This was said at a time when up to 80 percent of the Russian troops are already made up of local residents, with Russian citizens accounting for only the officers and lieutenants.

Just you wait: Following this tragedy, they will begin to reduce the Kazakh battalion and withdraw it without any ado, and under a suitable pretext. So why are we seeking promotion then? What is more, in spite of all this, the Rakhmanov Government has territorial claims against us. Very considerable they are too, and they do not intend to withdraw them! This is a striking example of ingratitude. Our delegation, which flew to Dushanbe for talks on this problem, returned empty-handed. According to confidential information, the Tajiks are not seeking any compromises. At the same time, Dushanbe has signed an agreement with Uzbekistan and had ceded considerable parts of its territory to it. [Uzbek President] Karimov held talks with his neighbors in a commanding manner, because he knows their weakness and dependence on foreign aid.

According to people who have talked with Rakhmanov, he has lost all sense of reality. He behaves as if a mighty and prosperous country stood behind him, not a severely reduced one.

Is it not possible that in supporting him, we are nurturing a future aggressor who, counting on a large battle-hardened army, might seize a piece of our land? If his regime falls and the opposition comes to power, it will be no easier for us. That side will accuse us of having fought against "the heroic army of the Islamic-democratic opposition" on behalf of "the criminal authoritarian regime." Nor will they want to seek any consensus with us on territorial demarcation, either.

Meanwhile, disputed and undisputed lands are being settled by Tajiks with no intention of recognizing our authority. Thus, a "fifth column" is being formed.

Tens of thousands of undefended Kyrgyz are living in Tajikistan in a state of constant calamity and humiliation. Perhaps our battalion should be positioned in areas with compact Kyrgyz populations, on the key roads in Badakhshan leading to Kyrgyzstan, thereby cutting off the flow of drugs and arms, which is beyond the powers of the militia?

Unfortunately, the leadership of our country has an extremely cavalier attitude to these problems. Many keep quiet or brush aside criticism as panic. Those who remain silent today must accept the guilt for any future victims of the present indifference.

Everything that I have said is my personal opinion. But with every passing day more and more people share it, regardless of me. And it cannot be shaken by the television "specials" arranged now and then by the colonels here in their comfortable positions.

The main point in my support is that our soldiers serving in Tajikistan share the same opinion. They are not afraid to look death straight in the eyes. They only want there to be some reason for this—in the interests of Kyrgyzstan.

Tajikistan

UN Military Observers To Visit Opposition in Afghanistan

LD1804225995 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0300 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today a delegation of UN military observers led by an Austrian, Major Thomas Stillinger, will arrive in Taloqan in the Islamic State of Afghanistan. The delegation consists of Major Angel Dimitriev from Bulgaria, Andres Sarano Smith from Spain, the representative of the opposition Jaloliddin Mahmudov, Lieutenant Colonel Juraqul Boboyev from the National Security Ministry of Tajikistan, and Mansur Mirzoyev from the Defense Ministry of Tajikistan.

This delegation will arrive in Taloqan at the invitation of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, with the aim of becoming acquainted with examples of the Russians' grave crimes of 13 April.

As is known, on Thursday [13 April] a number of Russian warplanes carried out air raids on Taloqan, and at least 125 people were killed and more than 200 injured as a result.

The Islamic Movement of Tajikistan had asked the head of the UN mission in Tajikistan to sent a delegation of observers to Taloqan before the forthcoming talks begin in Moscow.

According to the international press center of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, the aforementioned delegation will arrive in Afghanistan today after 1000. The delegation intends to meet the leader of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan after visiting the areas that were damaged and meeting witnesses. However, it has not yet been confirmed whether or not such a meeting will be held. The delegation will return to Dushanbe on Wednesday [19 April].

President Comments on Visit to Kuwait

LD1804140195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1330 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Viktor Lebedev]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al Kuwayt, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov and Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah met here today to voice their readiness to consolidate bilateral relations.

The Tajik state head arrived here on Monday on an official visit at the invitation of the Kuwaiti amir. Rakhmanov told ITAR-TASS that the negotiations "will open Tajikistan a window to the Arab world with which the Tajik people has much in common. The common cultural traditions and history will help rapprochement of our peoples," stressed the president.

The Tajik leader has also met the Kuwaiti ministers of finance and foreign affairs. In his words, the meetings "were held in the atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding and were constructive." The meetings will result in signing of several agreements to lay down good grounds for further cooperation, stressed Rakhmanov.

Russian Border Guards Rebuff Tajik Militants

LD1804131395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1029 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe, April 18 (INTERFAX)—The Russian border-guards have rebuffed several sorties by Tajik opposition militants on the Tajik-Afghan border on Monday night in the area controlled by the Pyanj border-guard detachment, the press center of the Russian border-guard grouping in Tajikistan told Interfax.

A representative of the press center said that the opposition continues to accumulate and re-group its forces in the Pamirs direction. "The militants are concentrating their forces in Badakhshan (an autonomous region in the east of Tajikistan) and on the external side of the border," he said.

The Russian border troops' analytical service believes that the militants of the Islamic Revival Movement are preparing for a second attack on the Russian border posts Barchid and Dashti-Yazgulem of the Khorog border-guard detachment.

On April 7 to 14, the militants carried out a series of attacks on the border posts in this region.

Turkmenistan

President Urges Better Ties With United States

LD1804214895 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1645 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By K. Balyyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashkhabad, 18 Apr (TURKMEN PRESS)—President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy of Turkmenistan today met William White, deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy; Laughlin, a Congressman from Texas, and (Sheila Hessman).

During the conversation, which lasted two hours, Saparmurad Turkmenbashy told the guests about the principal areas of the political and socioeconomic development of our country and about Turkmenistan's foreign policy concept.

"Since the day we acquired independence we have paid a great deal of attention to establishing mutually advantageous relations with any country," President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy noted. "We are ready for all-round cooperation with the United States based on these same principles."

Saparmurad Turkmenbashy acquainted the guests with the major economic projects and called on the United States to take part in implementing them.

The guests familiarized themselves attentively with the future export routes for Turkmen fuels, and stressed that cooperation in this area would be to the advantage of both states.

"The stable socioeconomic situation in Turkmenistan is attracting businessmen and investors from all over the world, the United States included," the guests noted. "We are in no doubt that today's meeting will serve to lay the foundations for bilateral, mutually advantageous relations." The guests expressed much gratitude to President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy of Turkmenistan for finding the time to meet them despite being very busy, and noted that U.S.- Turkmen relations will develop dynamically in the future.

President Survives 'Acute' Respiratory Disorder

LD1704144395 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1400 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The press service of the president of Turkmenistan has been told by Professor M.Ch. Charyyev, director of the scientific research institute for preventive and clinical medicine, that Turkmen President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy [Niyazov] suffered an acute respiratory illness on 12 to 17 April.

Signs of inflammation of the upper respiratory tract and a high temperature were observed over this period.

The anti-inflammatory therapy and intensive comprehensive treatment, which were conducted produced positive results. At present the state of health of the president of Turkmenistan is satisfactory.

The secretariat of the president of Turkmenistan reports that Saparmurad Turkmenbashy will resume work on 18 April.

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Armenia

Karabakh Minister on Duma Discussion, Troop Withdrawal

NC1804205095 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a news conference in Stepanakert today Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Foreign Minister Arkadi Ghukasyan described the open hearings held at the Russian State Duma by the Committee on CIS Affairs and Ties With Compatriots as a positive and salutary development and Azerbaijan's refusal to take part in these hearings as a lack of a desire to find a constructive way out of the conflict.

The Duma hearings were originally planned to be held in January. Since then an active exchange of correspondence has been taking place between Azerbaijan and Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the Committee on CIS Affairs and Ties With Compatriots. However, in his cable on 10 April, [chairman of Azerbaijani parliament] Rasul Guliyev said that such hearings are viewed in the Republic as interference in the internal affairs of sovereign Azerbaijan and they could only hamper the resolution of the Karabakh problem.

The hearings were an opportunity to find a way out of the present situation, particularly since the Azerbaijani president had stated more than once that Russia holds the key to the resolution of the conflict.

The NKR foreign minister noted that Azerbaijan is holding an extremely unconstructive position. The hearings at the State Duma confirmed that the Russian officials are trying to formulate their position for the peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict and are aware of Russia's historic responsibility for the region's fate and situation prevailing there. This is apparent from numerous declarations they have been making.

As he himself said, the NKR foreign minister's statement basically touched on Karabakh's views on the resolution of the conflict and validated the historic and judicial foundation of the NKR's right to independence. In reply to a question concerning demands for the pullout of the Karabakh Army from the territories under its control, he said that the mediators believe that the process of the resolution of the problem should start from the troop withdrawal. Karabakh has a different opinion: The Karabakh Army will not withdraw from the territory under its control as long as a political solution has not been worked out.

Asked if there is a preference between the Russian or other peacekeeping troops, the foreign minister replied: We have always stated and reiterate that the best troops are reliable troops. The problem of peacekeeping troops is not a matter of principle for us.

Karabakh Politicians Discuss Azerbaijani-Western Oil Deal

NC1804144295 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1514 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, April 17 (NOYAN TAPAN)—Azeri political analysts consider that the conclusion of the oil contract between Azerbaijan and Western consortium means that the Russia's positions in Transcaucasus are getting weaker both from geopolitical and economic points of view. It is pointed out that if the oil pipe line route goes through Armenia, on which Western states insist, that will give Armenia a greater degree of independence from Moscow. It will also enable Armenia to resolve global problems with energy resources in exchange for certain concessions on the Karabakh issue". [quotation marks as published]

A NOYAN TAPAN journalist turned to the deputy of the Karabakh Supreme Council Maksim Mirzoian and political adviser to the MKR [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] Parliament Chairman Vasili Aghajanyan [name and title as received] with the request to comment on the above-mentioned judgments by Azeri analysts.

[Maksim Mirzoyan] The war in Chechnya have clearly demonstrated the Russia's intention to maintain its positions in Transcaucasus, so it will be at least naive to speak about the weakening of Russia's positions in this region. Quoting Suvorov, I should say that Russia will be in danger unless a Russian hand draws water from the Arax river. That is the reality. As to "Baku" and "Kazakh" oil, I can assure that interests of the orthodox world will make oil pipe line route pass through Bulgaria and Greece and then to the Mediterranean. Talks about installation of the oil pipe line through Megri corridor is Turks' blue dream. However, still there is no oil, and the oil contract is just a paper, yet this paper gives millions of dollars to regimes of Dudayev, late Gamsakhurdia and alive and kicking Aliyev. This contract is the main obstacle on the way to MKR's recognition by Azerbaijan.

As to concessions on the Karabakh issue, they are not to be decided in Baku, and this is also the reality.

[Vasili Aghajanyan] The problem of Mountainous Karabakh will be resolved by the people of Karabakh, so let Baku's official structures not to pin big hopes on Armenia, here where they mistake. MKR is an independent state which is existing de facto and Azerbaijan will have to reconcile itself with this fact. Baku's attempts to tie up its oil affairs with the Karabakh problem are nothing, but idle fancy. The position of Mountainous Karabakh has been and still remains intact: to reach independence, and no Azeri "oil tricks" can encroach upon it.

Karabakh Deputy Candidates Nominated

954F2098A Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 14 Apr 95 p 1

[NOYAN TAPAN report: "Candidates Named"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The nomination of candidates for people's deputy of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic is complete. Seventy-two candidates for deputy have been nominated for the new parliament from 33 electoral districts. This was what a NOYAN TAPAN Agency correspondent was told by Musheg Ogandzhanyan, chairman of the Central Election Commission. He observed that, according to the law of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic on the elections of people's deputies, the elections are deemed valid if there has been a turnout of more than 50 percent. A candidate is considered elected if more than half those who go to the polls vote for him. According to M. Ogandzhanyan, if more than two candidates are on the ballot in a district and neither is elected, the district election commission shall conduct a runoff within no more than two weeks' time.

Tsekhapashtutyun Party Leader on Elections

954F2098B Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 14 Apr 95 p 2

[Interview with Shant Arutyunyan, leader of the Tsekhapashtutyun Party, by Ashot Mkhitaryan; place and date not given: "'We Are for the Dictatorship of the Law'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mkhitaryan] In what year was your party founded, how many members does it have, and are there branches in the districts and abroad?

[Arutyunyan] The ideological nucleus of today's organization was created in 1987, and we registered under today's name in 1990. Our organization has 50 members and three branches: in Masis, Goris, and Kapan.

[Mkhitaryan] Your basic ideological and political principles?

[Arutyunyan] Our overriding principle is "All for the state, the state for all." We understand by this national socialist ideology plus authoritarian leadership and dictatorship.

[Mkhitaryan] So it is with good reason that you are called fascists, specially with the swastika, marches?...

[Arutyunyan] No, I have never considered myself a fascist, and the swastika is an old Armenian symbol. As far as the methods and tokens of my struggle are concerned, they are aimed exclusively at the accomplishment of national ideas. It is simply that since the time of the Soviets our struggle was of the nature of opposition to a totalitarian system. So a certain extremism of our actions was justified, I believe.

[Mkhitaryan] Let's assume you win the elections. Your next actions?

[Arutyunyan] We would first of all inaugurate a Ministry of National Policy and Propaganda because ideology must be at the head of the state structure. This ideology does not exist in today's Armenia or it is called democratic, that is, it does not exist. Such a ministry should, for example, tackle the demographic issue and promote the growth of the population on the basis of particular research. Such questions cannot be allowed to take their own course. The state must regulate them.

There should, naturally, be authoritarian leadership by a personality who should have exclusive rights and obligations. Since we are supporters of a dictatorship, we believe, naturally, that there should be a dictatorship, but a dictatorship of the law. Although it may be said that we already have it today. But democracy, no. Democracy is when homosexual marriages are allowed, and today's processes occurring in our country and other countries are not democracy but anarchy raised to the level of the law. The rights and obligations of the citizens of the state are important for us. The question of the citizen is highest of all. So that I even prefer a non-Armenian citizen to an Armenian noncitizen of Armenia. Simply put, our nationalism is of a state nature.

[Mkhitaryan] Parliament has adopted a new Election Act. With what do you agree, and with what, not?

[Arutyunyan] I cannot say anything definite, to be honest. I am not a deputy, so no specific information reaches me. We will take part in the elections, though, and could win no fewer than 10-15 percent of the seats in the new parliament.

[Mkhitaryan] What will the elections be like, in your view: police-patrolled, as part of the opposition maintains, or objective?

[Arutyunyan] I do not know whether the elections will be objective but it is certain that they will not be police-patrolled. Although I do not believe that the parties will have equal opportunities, there will be no pressure on the electorate. The president is today on the way to authoritarian leadership, and we consider this the norm. The main levers of the executive are within presidential rule. Consequently, only the executive is capable of making the elections police-patrolled elections. But it will not do so because parliament has at this time receded fully into the background in administration of the state and is entirely manageable. And for the president himself, in my opinion, the presidential elections of 1996 are more important than these. And it will be entered down as a plus for him if these elections are not police-patrolled.

[Mkhitaryan] Will the ruling party hold on to its majority?

[Arutyunyan] In one way or another, yes. But I do not believe that it will succeed, even at best, in obtaining more than 40 percent of the seats in parliament.

[Mkhitaryan] How will you head into the elections: independently or in a bloc?

[Arutyunyan] Absolutely by ourselves.

[Mkhitaryan] What blocs, in your opinion, will be formed for the elections?

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[Arutyunyan] I have no precise information. But I know that, aside from the Armenian National Movement bloc, there is the National Accord Union, but they will, it seems, have dissolved by the time of the elections.... That's all.

[Mkhitaryan] How, in your opinion, will the Dashnaks and the communists approach the elections?

[Arutyunyan] The Dashnaks have for me been an unacceptable party from the moment they emerged. They were criticized hitherto from the viewpoint and level of the Bolsheviks. And it pains me that this criticism is not opening the people's eyes to the Dashnaks. If anyone wants to condemn them without prejudice, he should take as a basis the works of the primordially Dashnak ideologists, the founders of fundamental Dashnak ideology—Garegin Khandzhyan, Mikael Varandzyan, Vaan Navasardyan, and Nikolay Akhperyan. This was never a national party, it always represented the Armenian wing of the world revolutionary forces, Armenian SR's, so to speak. They never pursued the goals of liberation of the Armenian people from the Turkish or Russian yoke but cooperated instead with the Young Turks and pushed the revolution together with them in the Ottoman Empire in exchange for seats in the Turkish Parliament. This was not a mistake of the Dashnaks, they were led along this path by revolutionary ideology. The Dashnaks had no interest in Armenia's independence since by election to the Turkish Parliament they had accepted the Young Turk republic. All the slogans about struggle for national independence employed by the Dashnaks were merely a method of the realization of world revolution in the region. The ideology of this party is dogmatic to this day, it has not changed at all since those times. The attitude of our people toward the Dashnaks was formed from a hatred of the communists and covered by a romantic veil. As far as the actual nonparticipation of the Dashnaktsutyun Party in the elections in view of its suspension is concerned, I consider this to be one of the president's most correct moves. Although quite belated. I have grounds for dissatisfaction even. The Dashnaks should not have been "summonsed" on something formal and suspended on this basis but smashed ideologically once for all.

As far as the communists are concerned.... I myself am from an anti-Soviet family. My grandfather, my uncle, and I myself were persecuted. I hate them. Particularly for the fact that they sold our land, especially Karabakh and Nakhichevan. But I cannot deny that at the time that the communists were in office there were people who thought about the nation. After all, everything that we have today was ultimately built by them. I like today's Russian communists. Zyuganov gives interviews and speaks about Peter I and Ivan Kalita. The Russian communists are thinking about their state. Who needs the tainted slogans of Armenia's communists? I have said earlier what I think about the fighters for world proletarian forces....

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Continuing Contacts in Brussels

NC1804170795 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1250 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev's official visit to Brussels is continuing. Our special correspondent Seyyad Akhbabali is on the line:

[Begin Akhbabali recording] President Geydar Aliyev, who arrived in the Belgian capital yesterday with the aim of forging and developing cooperation between Azerbaijan and the European Union, met a group of representatives of our compatriots living in various European countries and united around Azerbaijani cultural societies.

The meeting could be characterized thus: The Azerbaijanis living abroad are taking their first steps forward by coming together in, as yet not fully formed, cultural societies. While it is still too early to talk about an Azerbaijani lobby and diaspora, there is no doubt that they will emerge, as long as a center can be set up to coordinate the activities of the various societies. Those living far from the homeland for various reasons are not indifferent to the situation in Azerbaijan. They are informed about the political and social situation in our Republic, and, as much as possible, are helping our country, which is now in difficulty. Our compatriots believe our people's future could be ensured by protecting, safeguarding, and consolidating the independent Azerbaijani statehood.

The Azerbaijani president briefed those present on the situation in our country, spoke on the reforms being undertaken to surmount the economic difficulties, and expressed his view on the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. He noted that even though the former head of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, is mostly to be blamed for the start of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, the Azerbaijani leaders at the time are also responsible for the tragic situation, because they failed to take solution-oriented measures at the start or during the conflict and were moved by personal ambitions in the struggle for power, even it meant surrendering land to the enemy. In this connection, President Geydar Aliyev stressed the surrender of the Shusha, Lachin, and Kelbajar Regions. In considering the reality, the Azerbaijani president noted that he now favors the solution of the conflict only by peaceful means on the sole condition that the Republic's full powers are restored throughout its territory and the occupying troops are withdrawn from Azerbaijani land. President Geydar Aliyev stated that he is pinning his hopes on the OSCE Minsk Group's activity to attain this goal. At the same time he noted that stability in the country is imperative for solving the Republic's problems. But some forces do not even hold back from armed uprising to seize power. The president explained the

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essence of the two coup attempts in the past six months and noted the need for the measures against such attempts.

In their interviews with us before the meeting and in their statements at the meeting, our compatriots firmly stated that Azerbaijan now needs unity, that armed coup d'etat is unacceptable, that Europe reproves such acts, and that any Western country would have acted like Azerbaijan in the event of armed uprising and would have suppressed it. There is only one democratic way to come to power—through elections.

The participants at the meeting spoke of the need to increase humanitarian assistance to Azerbaijan while deploring that the aid does not reach its target. They complained that some of their personal efforts to develop ties between our Republic and Europe and measures coordinated with the leaders of the countries in which they live fail to be implemented, solely due to indifference by various Azerbaijani ministries.

The president instructed the relevant officials to resolve these issues.

The speakers also noted the urgent need to solve the problem of citizenship.

The president said that all the problems raised by them will be examined and measures will be taken to solve them.

I want to bring to your attention the statement made by one of our fighter compatriots living in a European country: I am a soldier, Mr. President, Mr. Commander, my mother Azerbaijan is in difficulty. The soldier son wants to fight and to be martyred for his mother, for his land, and freedom. I seek your help.

The existence of such brave and daring Azerbaijani sons testifies to President Geydar Aliyev's statement at the meeting that Azerbaijani people are not that helpless for Armenians to occupy their land; there is a totally different reason for it.

President Geydar Aliyev will meet the president of the European Commission, Jacques Santer, today to discuss relations with the EU. The EU is reportedly planning to allocate $70 million of credit and to increase humanitarian assistance to Azerbaijan. Our president will then meet the Belgian prime minister and will return home late at night. This is Seyyad Akhbabali reporting for the news program. [end recording]

U.S. Oil Company Chosen To Improve Washington Ties

LD1804135495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1320 GMT 18 Apr 95

[By Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, April 18 (ITAR-TASS)—U.S. Undersecretary of Energy Bill White is expected to arrive here today being accompanied by two senators and over 50 businessmen to attend a contract signing ceremony. The contract will legalize the transfer of five per cent of the Azeri share in investments in development of three Caspian oil deposits to the U.S. Exxon company. The share was established by an agreement of September 1994 that provides for the extraction of 511 million tones of oil in the next 30 years.

Sources at the Azeri state oil company told ITAR-TASS that the signing ceremony will be held on Wednesday afternoon. In the opinion of confidential sources, it may include negotiations of White and Azeri President Geydar Aliyev.

A decision on the share transfer was taken by the Azeri authorities two weeks ago after the U.S. company offered profitable conditions of bilateral cooperation to the republic. The conditions include partial payment of the Azeri investment share in the project. The other part will be paid off by the Turkish petroleum company which has signed a similar contract with Azerbaijan. The Azeri republic in the person of its oil company will enjoy a major bonus for cooperation with the firms. The bonus is estimated at 173.2 million dollars by Baku newspapers.

In the opinion of Baku analysts, the choice of Exxon was caused by political reasons of the Azeri leadership rather than economic merits and technical achievements of the U.S. company in oil extraction. This has been confirmed by the Azeri state head, who said that the political reason was the key one. In the opinion of Aliyev, cooperation with Exxon and other U.S. members of the international oil consortium will enable the establishment and consolidation of interstate relations between Azerbaijan and the United States.

Baku To Sign Trade Pact With Russia, Pay 1993 Debt

MK1804103095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Aydyn Mekhtiyev under the "Azerbaijan" rubric: "The Kremlin and Baku Are Drawing Closer Together. Basis Is Being Prepared for Yeltsin-Aliyev Meeting"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The date of the signing of a trade-economic agreement between Azerbaijan and Russia will soon be announced. This was told to the KHABAR-SERVICE agency by Azerbaijan First Vice Premier Abbas Abbasov. In Abbasov's words, such an understanding was reached during a telephone conversation with Aleksey Bolshakov, Russian vice premier and chairman of the presidium of the Interstate Economic Committee of CIS Member Countries. This document has already been initialed by the heads of corresponding state structures of Azerbaijan and Russia. During the latest visit to Moscow by a parliamentary delegation of Azerbaijan, the question of mutual debts was discussed and one more point was added to the draft

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intergovernment agreement. It points out that Baku undertake to pay this year its 1993 debt. Observers note in this connection that the question of Azerbaijan's debt to Russia was one of the most difficult in the course of drafting the trade-economic agreement. Azerbaijan's debt to Russia is about $80 million. The republic's current leading foreign economic partner is Iran, but once the Azeri-Russian intergovernment agreement has been signed, Russia would once again be Baku's priority partner. [passage omitted]

Let me remind you that there have been no sharp complications in relations between the two countries in the past two years after Heydar Aliyev came to power in Baku because the Azeri leader has avoided anti-Russian pronouncements. Nevertheless, Baku's refusal to permit the deployment of Russian military bases on its territory and to allow Russian border guards to the Iranian border caused irritation among Russian generals. The joint Russian-Armenian exercises in March in direct proximity to Azerbaijan's border were expected most probably to soften Baku's stance in the dialogue with the Kremlin on military matters. On the threshold of more vigorous political consultations, Baku officials banned the operation of the "Boz Gurd" ("Gray Wolves") party, which was actively supporting the actions of Chechen rebels. Control over the movement of Chechens on Azerbaijan's territory was also tightened.

CIS Border Protection Agreement Opposed

LD1704192795 Moscow EKHO MOSKVY INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSVO in Russian 1723 GMT 17 Apr 95

[Received by fax]

[FBIS Translated Text] "In principal, we are not opposed to the joint protection of the CIS borders, but we are opposed to the document which is now being proposed," Fuad Akhundov, press secretary of the president of Azerbaijan, told the "Ekho Moskvy" radio station.

The main reason for this is that "although 130 km of Azerbaijan's borders with Iran are occupied by the Armenian troops, this is not being taken into account at all, as if Azerbaijan were controlling all its foreign borders by itself," F. Akhundov said.

"What kind of joint patrolling can one talk about in this case?" the press secretary of the president of Azerbaijan stressed.

"There is an article in the document which curtails the sovereignty of Azerbaijan," he added. He said: "The document's objective is to create a joint command of border troops, and this limits the sovereignty of the state of Azerbaijan."

F. Akhundov emphasized: "Azerbaijan stands for mutual assistance, for the joint coordination and protection of the CIS borders. Should this be taken into consideration, and more important, if there is an acknowledgement of the fact that 130 km of the Azerbaijani border are controlled by the Armenian side, Azerbaijan will join this treaty."

Georgia

Defense Minister Meets Counterpart in Moscow

LD1804134095 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1300 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi 18 [April]—Defense Minister of Georgia Lt-Gen Vardiko Nadibaidze is currently holding talks in Moscow with the leadership of the Russian Defense Ministry on the final settlement of the Abkhaz conflict and the unconditional return of the Georgian refugees to Abkhazia.

Abkhaz Supreme Council Threatens Rejecting Mandate Renewal

LD1804200495 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1236 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi—Today, 18 April, a session of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia was held. The session was chaired by Tamaz Nadareishvili, deputy prime minister of Georgia. The bulk of the session was dedicated to the events in Gali district. It was noted that on 15 April, an emergency session of the organizing committee for the peaceful settlement of the conflict was held in Zugdidi.

The session gave a proper assessment of the current situation in the conflict zone. It was noted at the session that agreements already signed are being violated and that genocide of the Georgian population in Abkhazia is still continuing. A special project dealing with the above issue was presented at the session. It was mentioned in the document that the Georgian side will not allow the renewal of the mandate unless the jurisdiction of the Georgian State is restored on Abkhaz territory and unless the forcibly displaced people start to return to their homes.

Abkhaz Peoples Congress Urges Moscow Reunification

LD1604142695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SUKHUMI, April 16 (Interfax)—The Congress of Abkhaz Peoples in Sukhumi urged the Russian leaders and people to take measures for reunification between Russia and Abkhazia today.

Decisions of the Congress of Abkhaz Peoples are obligatory for the republic's authorities. The Congress of Abkhaz Peoples held its previous meeting in June 1993 when it decided to continue armed struggle against Georgia.

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The Congress of Abkhaz Peoples said in its appeal to Moscow that "the Abkhaz people made its choice about 200 years ago and joined great Russia." "Since that time Abkhazia and Russia have been in single economic and political space," the Congress said.

"We consider Abkhazia as a territory under Russia's protection. Only reunification with Russia will help the Abkhaz people and other peoples living in Abkhazia to see a rebirth," the Congress said.

"Only Russia is capable of ensuring peace and calmness in the region and preserving the multinational Abkhaz people and the political-economic and spiritual space needed for its existence," the Congress said.

Abkhaz President Vladislav Ardzinba took part in the meeting of the Congress of Abkhaz People.

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Estonia

Latvian Fishing Boat Intercepted in Disputed Zone

WS1904092695 Tallinn BNS in English 1530 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Apr 18, BNS—An Estonian coast guard boat on Monday [17 April] intercepted a Latvian vessel fishing in the so-called "grey zone" on the sea border between the two countries that Estonia has declared its economic zone.

The Latvian vessel, Signe, was spotted at 1.40 p.m. on Monday by the Estonian coast guard boat Kou some 1.5-2 nautical miles into the Estonian waters, said Jaan Kapp, head of maritime section at the Estonian Border Guard Department.

The Latvian vessel was ordered to leave Estonian waters after a check showed it had caught no fish. The same ship had previously entered the Estonian economic zone without permission on April 7.

During the Easter holidays, Estonian coast guard crews intercepted two Latvian ships fishing in the country's waters near the island of Ruhnu.

The main point of disagreement between the two countries is a sea area near Ruhnu, especially rich in fish, which under the Estonian law is part of the country's territorial waters. Latvia has contested Estonia's right for the area.

The head of the Estonian Border Guard Department's maritime section said recurrent illegal enterings by Latvian boats into the Estonian waters were not to be linked with Latvia's official policy.

"What we see here is rather the result of greed of the Latvian fishing companies and Soviet legacy in the mentality of the captains, their negligence and carelessness. The attitude of the captains of some fishing vessels is such as if we were still living in the Soviet era," Kapp told BNS.

Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi at a press conference on Tuesday said finding a solution to what the media has dubbed the "Baltic herring war" between Estonia and Latvia needed "a diplomatic approach rather than sending a cannon boat to the disputed territory." Vahi said the issue was to be dealt with immediately by his new Cabinet's Foreign Minister Riivo Sinijarv.

The Estonian prime minister said the two countries needed no third mediating party and that all problems could be resolved by the two Foreign Ministries. "If we fail to reach an agreement that way, it will be also possible to seek justice in international organizations," he told BNS.

Interior Minister Edgar Savisaar in his remarks to reporters said Estonia's patrol boats in the disputed zone will act like the government decides. Estonia currently keeps two patrol boats in the sea area near Ruhnu. One of boats, the Kou, carries two 23-mm automatic cannons. A third coast guard boat is permanently in a sea area to the west, near the peninsula of Sorve.

New Estonian Cabinet Sworn In

LD1804203795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1723 GMT 18 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: No. 73 (817); compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The new Estonian cabinet led by Prime Minister Tiit Vahi was sworn in Monday [17 April].

After the ceremony in parliament President Lennart Meri thanked the old government for the work done and signed a decree on its dismissal.

The new cabinet was formed on the basis of the election alliance of the Coalition Party/Rural Association and the Center Party that collected 57 out of 101 seats in the elections on March 5.

Ten out of the 15 ministers, including the prime minister, belong to the Coalition Party/Rural Association and five are Center Party members. The average age of ministers is 47.

The new cabinet no longer includes the post of a minister without portfolio in charge of reforms but has instead a minister without portfolio for integration into the European community. The change is due to the belief that reforms in Estonia have become irreversible and integration into the European Union is one of the key tasks.

The new cabinet favors close cooperation with countries of the Baltic region and good-neighborliness with Russia. It pledged to continue the policy of liberalizing the economy.

New Foreign Minister Riivo Sinijarv, in an interview with Interfax, said that the Cabinet's main task should be the preparation of a bill on ratification of the agreements on the Russian troops pull-out from Estonia and on social guarantees for the pensioners of the former Soviet army, which were signed on July 26, 1994. The minister is sure that "international treaties should not be signed and declared invalid later". Sinijarv believes that "the former government should have handed over documents for ratification to the Estonian parliament".

The Foreign Minister said that the statement of the present minister, without portfolio, for European matters Endel Lippmaa about the need to reject the ratification of these agreements is "a personal point of view, expressed before his appointment as a member of government."

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Prime Minister Comments on Budget Prospects

LD1804191895 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 18 Apr 95

[Report by Uku Toom on a news conference following the first meeting of the new government in Tallinn on 18 April]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The first session of the government was relatively short and dealt mostly with organizational issues. [passage omitted] The outgoing ministers have to hand over their office within one month in the presence of a representative of the State Chancellery. Several people, 373 to be more precise, were given Estonian citizenship through the process of naturalization; 178 people received citizenship through the simplified procedure. [passage omitted]

A news conference after the meeting was attended by almost all ministers and various issues were discussed. Here is the opinion of Prime Minister Tiit Vahi about the balance of the budget.

[Begin Vahi recording] During the last two months, the revenue of the state budget has been about 150 million kroons less than the planned expenditure. I think this demonstrates that during this period the state budget was not balanced.

We have planned an analysis of revenue and expenditure of the state budget for the government session on 20 April. Then we will look closely at the results for the first quarter on both the revenue and expenditure sides, on how regular and non-regular payments to the organizations have been made, and what measures should be taken to guarantee that the state budget balances unconditionally. [end recording]

The prime minister also spoke about Estonian-Latvian relations in connection with the fishing war.

[Begin Vahi recording] We are trying to sort out these entangled relations. I think that this may need not Estonia's only gun boat but a diplomatic approach, and I think that the foreign minister will take up this issue. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Vahi Appoints New State Secretary, Deputy Prime Minister

LD1804131895 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minster Tiit Vahi today appointed Uno Veering as state secretary. Until now, Veering worked as deputy mayor of Tallinn. The outgoing State Secretary Ulo Kaevats was in this position since October 1992.

At its session today, the government appointed Minister of Internal Affairs Edgar Savisaar as first deputy prime minister. If Savisaar is unable to act as the prime minister, Foreign Minister Riivo Sinijarv will carry out these duties.

Latvia

Reaction To Kozyrev Statement on Nationalities

LD1804192695 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 18 Apr 95

[Report by unidentified correspondent from Moscow—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] At today's session of the foreign policy council of Russia, devoted to the situation of residents of Russian nationality in CIS and Baltic countries, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said he would permit direct use of force to defend residents of Russian nationality abroad; and, in the words of the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry, there is a broad arsenal of means available for the defense of our countrymen, starting from statements of dissatisfaction from Russian Foreign Ministry spokesmen, up to the application of sanctions of a political and economic nature. And there are, I quote, also possible cases where the direct application of armed force is necessary for the defense of our countrymen living abroad, said Kozyrev. In Kozyrev's words, with the exception of Estonia and Latvia, there are no other countries where there is a conscious policy of oppressing the Russian-speaking population. Such a policy applies only to Estonia and Latvia. There are recorded cases where oppression and discrimination have been used in daily life and at the administrative level, added Kozyrev. Here is the first assessment from a Latvian politician of the (?statement) by the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry, from Janis Jurkans [former foreign minister]:

[Jurkans] It is very hard for me to believe that the foreign minister of a country can say such a politically shameless thing, because ultimately what he has said is direct interference in the internal affairs of another country. In the civilized world, such issues, such problems, are dealt with quite differently, are they not? It is hard for me to believe.

[Correspondent] But is it not to some extent connected with the fact that Kozyrev is directing attention (?a bit) to the situation of Russian residents in the Baltic countries?

[Jurkans] I understand that it all could be—let us assume that it could all be—that he is rebuking the nationalists and so on. But a civilized foreign minister must never allow himself to say such words! It is going absolutely too far. I know Kozyrev personally, and I know how much he has changed since the time when we were friends, see? But I simply find it hard to believe that he would use such words.

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[Correspondent] Here is another quote from what he said today: that it is in Estonia and Latvia that there is to be observed a conscious policy of oppressing the Russian-speaking population. So why did he not mention Lithuania there?

[Jurkans] Because there are terribly few Russians in Lithuania. Because Russians comprise only about 10 percent of the total population in Lithuania, and there they have absolutely no reason to say that: In practice on the citizenship issue they have the Zero Option [not further identified] and so on.

[Correspondent] How do you predict the reaction of the Latvian Foreign Ministry to Kozyrev's statement?

[Jurkans] I assume that the Foreign Ministry is waiting for some official paper, and will not proceed on the basis of newspaper articles. I think this is a gross interference in our internal affairs. It is a blatant, open threat, and I think that such a threat.... [Pauses] Our Foreign Ministry can direct the attention of the entire civilized community to these statements. I think that if there really were such statements, it could mean that Russia's foreign policy has undergone a sudden turn against the Baltic countries.

[Correspondent] I also asked Maris Grinblats [head of faction For the Fatherland and Freedom; secretary of parliamentary Judicial Commission] to express his opinion of the Russian foreign minister's statement, in which he spoke of the possibility of using force against those countries where Russian-speaking residents are discriminated against. What does Maris Grinblats think?

[Grinblats] Yes, the Russian foreign minister has come out before with similar kinds of unexpected and shocking statements, the motivation of which [words indistinct] further change, so of course (?I cannot say how seriously he thinks that). In any case, Latvia, especially someone at a responsible level in the Foreign Ministry, must use every opportunity to direct the thoughts and the attention of the world community to the fact that Russia is still not fulfilling those agreements, the conclusion of which with Russia was proposed—warmly recommended—to us by Western countries and international institutions. Specifically, these are guarantees that (?apply to) those military personnel who have stayed on as pensioners in Latvia, and that these retired military personnel would leave Latvia within the last two years. That has still not been done, and (?it is shocking to us) that the Latvian Government at all levels is not paying attention to this fact. It only goes to show that Latvia, of course, needs a sufficiently thoroughly prepared national security concept, which (?involves) all foreign policy, internal affairs, security, economic, and aspects relating directly to the security of the Baltic countries, not just some isolated defense concept, an isolated foreign policy concept. It seems simply that such a thing ought to be settled quickly.

[Correspondent] If these statements are officially confirmed, how should Latvia react?

[Grinblats] Well, obviously Latvia ought to react in an extremely carefully expressed way, (?referring to those facts) which led to Latvia now expressing justified anxiety at Russia's (?honest) attitude, relating both to the nonfulfilment of these agreements, and to historical experience, and to many other factors.

[Correspondent] We had an opportunity 10 minutes ago to consult with Janis Peters, the Latvian ambassador in Moscow. These are his views:

[Peters] As far as I can [word indistinct] the statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry, I can only express my regret at such a statement and interpret it as a preelection overture, as an effort not to allow Zhirinovskiy to exploit the patriotic theme, and also as an internal policy foretaste of Victory Day. The Latvian Embassy can express deep regret at the statements by the Russian foreign minister. We know that the Russian Foreign Ministry and the Russian Government have little right to speak about human rights in other countries, considering the ruthless violations of human rights in the Chechen war, (?against) the Chechen people. In my opinion it is to be seen as an extremely deep crisis in the Russian leadership.

[Correspondent] Ambassador, how can the Latvian side assess these statements by Kozyrev today?

[Peters] I think the Latvian Government ought not to leave unheeded these exaggerated and to some extent [word indistinct] statements; nor should they resort to hysteria, because we have gotten used to Russia's internal policy struggles, strivings, that relate to the situation within Russia.

Norway To Finance Teaching of Latvian to Russians

LD1804212995 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2000 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Norwegian Government is to finance the training of Latvian to Russian speakers in Latvia, announced Knut Toeraasen, Norwegian ambassador to Latvia, meeting on Tuesday with Saeima Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs. We think that in this way we can help to influence the integration process of other nationalities in Latvia, said the ambassador. Anatolijs Gorbunovs noted that integration is not assimilation; it is participation in the processes of Latvia. Unfortunately, (?tension) in Latvia (?can be caused) by the retired Russian military personnel remaining in Latvia. Gorbunovs and the Norwegian ambassador also discussed the two countries' parliamentary visits. In September a visit to Latvia is planned for the Norwegian parliamentary speaker, while the Norwegian prime minister plans to visit Latvia during the summer song festival. In addition, deputies in the Norwegian parliamentary Foreign Affairs Commission are preparing to visit Latvia.

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More Retired Russian Military Personnel Departing

LD1804201095 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Since the second week of April the number of Russian retired military personnel departing from Latvia has increased considerably, reports Juris Pavilonis, deputy director of tbe Department of Construction and Supply at the Ministry of Defence. The majority of those leaving, about 85 percent, were demobilized in Latvia after 28 January 1992 and have been staying here contrary to the agreements on troop withdrawal concluded in Moscow in 1994. The department has not yet collected information on how many military personnel have left Latvia. The precise number is difficult to determine, as their names are often not found either on the lists provided by Russia or on the Latvian ones.

Lithuania

Foreign Ministry Demands Explanation of Kozyrev Statement

LD1804200295 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 1900 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Tuesday the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs demanded that the Russian ambassador to Vilnius interpret the statement of the Russian foreign minister, Andrey Kozyrev, regarding the protection of the rights of Russian speaking people by military means.

Ambassador Nikolay Obertyshev promised to submit an official explanation and ensured the Lithuanian deputy foreign minister, Albinas Januska, that Minister Kozyrev's statement did not concern Lithuania.

At the sitting of the Russian foreign policy council on Tuesday Minister Kozyrev declared that he did not rule out the possibility of direct use of military force to defend Russian nationals residing in CIS and the Baltic states. According to Andrey Kozyrev, the measures can range from what he called dissatisfaction expressed by an anonymous official of the Russian Foreign Ministry to political and economic sanctions.

The Lithuanian deputy foreign minister, Albinas Januska, drew the attention of the Russian ambassador to the fact in trying to resolve various home and foreign policy problems, Russia had been recently threatening to use or even [word indistinct] military force. Albinas Januska said that this strengthening tendency in Russian policy was incompatible with international law and principles of good neighborship.

Slezevicius on Wages, Inflation, European Integration

LD1804134995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian at 1200 GMT on 18 April carries live a 42-minute report by Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius to the Seimas about the implementation of the laws and other resolutions adopted by the Seimas.

In his report, Adolfas Slezevicius reviews the work of the Cabinet of Ministers which has been carried out in order to implement the laws governing various aspects of the country's life.

Speaking about general problems of legislation, Adolfas Slezevicius says: "At present, as our situation concerning the integration with the European Union has totally changed, we are facing very complicated challenges in bringing our legislative base in line with the requirements set in the countries of the European Union".

Touching upon social matters, the prime minister says: "Reduction of the inflation rate allowed us to solve social problems more efficiently. We tried to index both pensions and wages to the extent defined by the resources which were available. During the current Cabinet's term in the office, starting from March 1993, wages in Lithuania were being increased more rapidly than in Latvia and Estonia.

"The average net wage in Lithuania, shown in U.S. dollars, increased by a factor of 3.8 over the period from March 1993 to December 1994. The increase figures in Latvia and Estonia were 2.9 and 2.1, respectively.

"Nevertheless, Lithuania still considerably lags behind the neighboring countries in terms of wages. Of course, this gap should not be seen as the ultimate index; prices for the utilities and consumer goods must be assessed as well."

Future of Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion Discussed

LD1804213595 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 1900 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A sitting of the coordinative [as heard] group for the setting up of the Baltic peacekeeping battalion, Baltbat, was held in Vilnius on Tuesday.

Representatives of the Baltic defense ministries and armed forces as well as foreign specialists discussed the structure, financing and other aspects of the future Baltbat. Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia have already formed peace keeping platoons which are now on a United Nation mission in Croatia. The Baltic states are currently training officers and noncommissioned officers to work in peacekeeping forces, and these states will build up a peacekeeping company.

It is planned that in 1996-97 they may be united into a Baltic peacekeeping battalion Baltbat.

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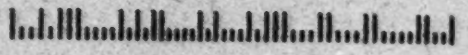

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